

One

Court backs Patten over capping

Education cuts threat after poll tax ruling

By JAMIE DETTMER

THE biggest legal challenge mounted against the poll tax failed yesterday when the High Court ruled the government acted lawfully in charge-capping 21 councils.

The judges rejected claims that Chris Patten, the environment secretary, had acted arbitrarily in his charge-capping last April. In a two-hour, 91-page judgment, they said Mr Patten was within his powers in refusing to explain to councils the criteria used to decide which authorities should be capped.

Council leaders accused the High Court yesterday of making a political judgment and said the ruling would mean swingeing cuts in services, particularly in education.

Twelve of the 19 Labour-controlled councils that had gone to the High Court, immediately announced that they would appeal. "We must go to the higher court to seek justice," Margaret Hodge, leader of Islington borough council, said. "The implications are that the secretary of state can do what he likes and

that is above the law. This is of great constitutional importance."

Mr Patten described the ruling as good news. "My decision to help four million charge-payers who have been suffering the consequences of excessive local authority budgets has been upheld."

Lord Justice Legatt, sitting with Mr Justice McCullough and Mr Justice Rook, also dismissed claims by the councils and teaching unions that to make cuts in education budgets after they were set would be unlawful. The unions said charge-capping would cause the loss of up to two thousand teachers' jobs and would have catastrophic consequences for schools.

They said the introduction of the national curriculum would be affected and that allowing education budgets to be altered after they had been set would undermine the government's plans for schools to have greater financial autonomy.

Barnsley council, whose capping means a £10 million reduction in its budget, has already announced redundancy plans and the closure of two old people's homes. Doncaster is drawing up a two-year package involving a reduction of £6 million in its education budget and £1 million in social services spending.

Counsel for the authorities had argued that the main principle used in judging an authority's budget excessive — exceeding the government's standing spending assessment by £75 per adult — was arbitrary. The judges rejected the argument and awarded costs, estimated at between £500,000 and £1 million, against the councils and the National Union of Teachers.

Lord Justice Legatt said many people may be disappointed, but the judges' role had been to interpret the law. However, Labour MPs and council leaders accused the court of failing to protect the people from the executive, and claimed the separation of powers between Parliament and the judiciary had been undermined.

They cited Lord Justice Legatt's comments about the central issues in the case. He said the main point of the action "involves considerations of national economic policy, and the secretary of state's decision constituted a political judgment which remains within the political domain". It was now for the Commons to decide whether

Conservative MPs believe the ruling will help Mr Patten in his negotiations with the prime minister over the extent of the powers available to government to curb excessive council spending. The prime minister has been pressing for new legislation extending controls over council budgets, but Mr Patten has been more cautious, arguing in the cabinet's review of the poll tax, that his existing powers are sufficient.

In scenes of Orwellian proportions, some 400 miners charged down Bucharest's central boulevard beating

passers-by at random. Some of them were shouting "death to the intellectuals" as the country became irrevocably split between its workers and smaller professional classes.

Shortly after the charge,

Romania yesterday suffered a second day of uncontrolled mob rule as miners ran amok in Bucharest, savagely beating anyone suspected of being a student or an intellectual. The inauguration of the new president, Ion Iliescu, was postponed.

Petre Roman, the prime minister and son of a famous communist family, launched a bitter attack on reporting of events by the world's media just as hundreds of miners were trying to break into the luxury hotel, where most were staying, in order to beat camermen.

Foreign observers as sadistic as the charging miners, wielding long clubs and iron bars tried to force their way in. "We will find those bastards," one of them shouted as desperate hotel management appealed for army or police protection.

"Stay inside this room or you will be killed," a receptionist said. "They are determined to kill anyone who tells the truth to the world about what is going on here. They hate anyone who tries to say what they are really doing, but people like you can see it."

Camermen became the targets after miners heard a rumour that they were disobeying instructions given by the miners' leaders and filming beatings from the comparative safety of the International Hotel a few yards away. I was inside the building

Peter Ustinov, the actor and dramatist, with his wife, Hélène, after the announcement of his knighthood

Mob rules again in Bucharest

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BUCHAREST

POST-revolutionary Romania yesterday suffered a second day of uncontrolled mob rule as miners ran amok in Bucharest, savagely beating anyone suspected of being a student or an intellectual. The inauguration of the new president, Ion Iliescu, was postponed.

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Poll tax ruling may hinder parent power in schools

By DOUGLAS BROOM, EDUCATION REPORTER

THE principle of parent power, a key plank of the government's education reform programme, appeared to have been undermined last night by a High Court ruling that councils could cut school budgets at any time of year.

The decision, part of the court's judgment upholding the government's right to cap the poll tax levied by high-spending councils, opens the way for local authorities to make retrospective cuts in the budgets given to school governors each year.

The councils had argued that because the Education Reform Act, 1988, required them to allocate budgets to schools by April 1, any subsequent reduction would be unlawful. The court rejected that argument.

The National Association of Governors and Managers said: "It undermines the whole basis of giving local people control of schools. It will make it impossible for governors to plan ahead if the figures can be changed at any time. You could not run a business on this basis. It is clearly ridiculous."

Council leaders were last night quietly relieved that they could spread the effect of cuts to a wider area. Education

accounts for the lion's share of their spending and the apparent inviolability of school budgets had ensured that the cuts fall on other areas. A senior source said last night: "They may be saying one thing publicly, but privately their view is that if the courts say school budgets can be cut, then cut them they will."

Lawyers said last night that this aspect of yesterday's ruling was unlikely to be challenged in next week's appeal. The court had evidence before it from head teachers that the effects of further cuts resulting from capping would be catastrophic for their schools. The ruling makes a nonsense of the government's pretence that its education reforms would extend parental choice.

Twenty-one councils have had their community charge capped. One, the London borough of Hillingdon, dropped out of the court case after coming under Conservative control and a second, Wigan, was capped after the others. The orders implementing the

The proposed caps for the 19 authorities involved in the High Court case are: Avon: budget reduced from £533.7m to £507.1m; Derbyshire: £560.5m to £520.6m; Barnsley: £241.9m to £232.7m; Basildon: £27.8m to £23.7m; Brent: £249.2m to £241.7m; Bristol: £64.2m to £56.6m; Calderdale: £132.8m to £125.4m; Cambridgeshire: £161.4m to £177.7m; Doncaster: £190m to £178.5m; Greenwich: £213m to £203m; Hammarland: £167.5m to £155.6m; Haringey: £26.5m to £20.5m; Islington: £189.5m to £183.7m; Luton: £29.3m to £28.1m; North Tyneside: £23.7m to £22.9m; Rochdale: £152m to £144m; Rotherham: £165.4m to £157.5m; Southwark: £241m to £226.9m; St Helens: £126.7m to £122.8m.

chaos in schools as commitments already made are disrupted. Up to two thousand teachers' jobs are threatened.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, attacked John MacGregor, the education secretary, for refusing to meet the capped councils to discuss the effects on schools: "He has taken a Pontius Pilate approach and washed his hands of the whole business."

Mr Straw said cuts would fall most heavily on nursery schools and adult education. "It is monstrous that nursery schools should be affected at a time when even the government accepts that we must have more provision for mothers returning to work."

Keith Sonner, local government officer of Naigo, said that the cost of redundancy payments to up to 5,000 council workers would worsen the cuts. "It creates a vicious circle, and the people who rely on local authority services are the victims."

Margaret Hodge, Labour leader of Islington Council, said: "It is a sad day when Mr Patten can do what he likes and not be accountable to anybody. It is clear nonsense that he should try to slash budgets half way through the financial year."



Members of the Chelsea police team in practice in the Fulham Road, west London, yesterday for a charity bicycle run to Brighton tomorrow to raise funds in aid of the British Heart Foundation

St Mary's, population 3, decides to go it alone

THE tiny island of St Mary's, population three and an unknown number of seagulls, yesterday issued a unilateral declaration of independence. The islanders raised their own blue and white flag and prepared to issue their first passports.

The action of the rocky outcrop, off the north east coast near the resort of Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear, caused little

turmoil in Downing Street, however, and the Foreign Office was understood to be viewing the development with a calmness bordering on unconcern. In fact, the declaration had more to do with charity than with politics.

The idea behind turning St Mary's into the United Geordie Protectorate was to raise funds for the nominated charity of the Mayoress of North Tyneside, the

Nightingale Research Foundation, which investigates virus diseases.

North Tyneside council has bought the island, which can be reached by a causeway at low tide. The outcrop boasts a defunct lighthouse, cafe and exhibition centre telling its history, to attract tourists. After UDI, each visitor will be able to buy a "passport" for 35p, with 10p from each sale going to charity.

Councils to compete with private sector under Labour plan

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour party promised yesterday to let council workforces expand their services to compete with the private sector.

Bryan Gould, its environment spokesman, made the pledge as one of the measures to be adopted by a Labour government for improving the quality of local services.

Under plans to be examined by Mr Gould, council departments such as catering would be able to hire out their services to private functions and other departments would, when they had spare capacity, be able to manufacture and sell goods in competition with established businesses. Even council nurseries could be allowed to sell off plants to local gardeners.

In a speech marking a further development of Labour's acceptance of market forces, Mr Gould said Labour wanted to see council direct labour organisations and service organisations with greater freedom to develop and compete.

He said there were many areas where such organisations would be able to offer a better and more efficient service to their customers if they were able to compete for business in the private sector.

He promised that Labour would "look for ways of widening their competence to enable them to do so". Mr Gould told the Association of Direct Labour Organisation in Coventry: "Ministers are fond of saying that there must be no go areas for private industry. We shall be inclined to say the same of public industry."

Mr Gould said direct labour

and service organisations would be important agents in raising quality of services.

"We want to see them exploiting to the full the inherent advantages which led to their establishment in the first place - the stability of employment and order books, their knowledge of the customers' requirements, and the expertise which they are able to develop, all of which are hard to match by private industry," he said.

Mr Gould added that Labour had no intention of letting local authorities off the hook in terms of a continuing drive for greater efficiency and quality, and there would be measures to strengthen local accountability. He reiterated Labour's promise to introduce annual council elections.

SNP tours 'industrial wreckage'

Leading members of the Scottish National Party yesterday set out on a tour of central Scotland to highlight the country's industrial decline (Kerry Gill writes).

The tour, labelled the "trail of destruction", will last a week and end at Edinburgh with a demonstration against the closure of Ravenscraig steel strip mill and nuclear waste dumping.

The tour will leave the former Carttosh steelworks in Lanarkshire, which closed in 1986, and will visit other communities affected by industrial closure in the last decade.

A parallel tour will leave Dounreay nuclear plant in Caithness on Monday and visit sites threatened by transportation and dumping of nuclear waste.

Collusion claim

Less than a month after the completion of the Stevens report on collusion in Northern Ireland, Hugh Brady, a Sinn Fein councillor in Londonderry, has circulated copies of a document and alleged that security forces are continuing to leak information to Loyalist organisations.

The plan, completed at the end of a two-day meeting of the Trevi group in Dublin, will also mean a greater effort by police to identify and prosecute terrorist paymasters and will ease the "hot pursuit" of suspects across frontiers.

Wolfgang Schaeuble, the West German interior minister, said that police in the Federal Republic had foiled several recent IRA attacks, though David Waddington, the home secretary, said later that he had no knowledge of the alleged thwarted strikes.

Mr Schaeuble said the IRA's freedom to travel in Europe was being increasingly restricted because of growing co-operation between EC forces. "The problem is the IRA withdraws immediately after each attack. The breakthrough in the search for those responsible cannot be expected on the Continent alone."

• A decision on the future of the training centre in Uppnorhard, West Germany, damaged in a bomb explosion on Thursday, will be made by senior British officers next week (David Sapsford writes).

No-one has claimed responsibility for the explosion, which occurred an hour after Dutch servicemen had left.

CORRECTION

In yesterday's report of the Guinness trial it was suggested that fees paid to Mr Anthony Parnes, one of the defendants, had been negotiated by him. Mr Parnes asks us to point out that they were negotiated on his behalf by another defendant, Sir Jack Lyons.

THE battle of Hastings yesterday was High Court judicial review. Men's decision disqualification brothers as store's contractor. London, be ownership of Fraser stores in trade and industry. Nicholas Ridley duty to act in company Directive 1983 order Mr. Ridley's decision, bound to change.

Mr. Ridley pressure in the act in spite of public report published in department in Fayed brothers acquiring House. Among other departmental directors concluded had dishonesty sent their wealth and their secretary of state Fair Trading, directors, and their own

The Committee selected last issue of dispute should be decided. Mr. Director of Local Government go ahead. The

Saliv: hold to pe ulc

By PEARL SCIENCE

SCIENTISTS have biochemical evidence that saliva of sufficient matoid arthritis ulcers.

The discovery, working with Dr Hawkey at the Royal Hospital for Diseases of the Mouth, helped to establish peptic ulcers and their treatments.

A report published today in the European Journal of Endocrinology and says the investigation prompted by the finding that animals lick for good health saliva contains a growth factor that stimulates normal growth and repair.

Investigations doctors noticed matoid arthritis prone to ulcers syndrome, which salivary glands production of combination of caused the researchers' assumption that ulcers were caused by drugs.

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Race

TWO motorists fined £750 and banned for two years from driving in Scotland court was yesterday they had been in a race on the A9 Inverness road (K. writes).

Inverness Sheriff told that Anthony Smeda, who lives aged 33, who lived in India, reached 130mph in a Porsche as he tried to

Whether a business or P. Concourse has available throughout the year. Contract hire for insured until feasibility details and a total P. Concourse

MADTINI

JOHN LEWIS

Court to rule on Ridley's inaction over Harrods

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE battle over the ownership of Harrods flared again yesterday when Louroho won High Court permission for a judicial review of the government's decision not to seek disqualification of the Fayed brothers as directors of the store's controlling company.

Louroho, beaten in 1985 for ownership of the House of Fraser stores group, claims the trade and industry secretary, Nicholas Ridley, failed in his duty to act under the Company Directors Disqualification Act, 1986. The court can order Mr Ridley to reconsider his decision, but he is not bound to change his opinion.

Mr Ridley resisted great pressure in the Commons to act in spite of a damning report, published by his own department in March, on the Fayed brothers' behaviour in acquiring House of Fraser.

Among other things, the department of trade inspectors concluded that the Fayed brothers had dishonestly misrepresented their origins, their wealth, their business interests and their resources to the secretary of state, the Office of Fair Trading, House of Fraser directors and shareholders and their own advisers.

The Commons trade and industry select committee recommended last month that the issue of disqualification should be put to the courts to decide. Mr Paul Spicer, a director of Louroho, said: "We are pleased that the review can go ahead. This is not an

attempt to keep a feud going with the Fayed brothers, merely an effort to make the secretary of state act."

The House of Fraser would make no comment, saying the matter was sub judice, but it is understood the group intends to fight the Louroho application to the House of Lords. One source said: "It is simply another attempt by Louroho to waste £1 million of its shareholders' money in pointless litigation which will get them nowhere."

There was no comment from the trade and industry department.

The dispute between the Fayed brothers and Louroho's chief executive, Tiny Rowland, goes back beyond the takeover to 1981 when Mr Rowland gave an undertaking to the department not to bid for the store group after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission ruled a merger would be against the public interest. Norman Tebbit, the then trade secretary, refused to release Louroho from that promise and allowed a bid from the Egyptian-born Fayed brothers instead in March 1985.

Mr Tebbit's action was the subject of a separate legal action launched by Louroho last month, seeking damages for loss of opportunity to bid for the group.

After the Fayed took control of House of Fraser, Mr Rowland pressed for a trade department inquiry. Late in 1985, Leon Brittan, who had taken over as secretary of state, rejected that request, but in April 1987, his successor, Paul Channon, agreed to set up an investigation. The report was delivered a year ago to Lord Young.

Louroho used its ownership of the *Observer* newspaper to publish a leaked copy of the report, but an injunction was obtained by the department to halt its dissemination. It was eventually released by Mr Ridley on March 7, and condemned the Fayed brothers for their deviousness.

Suggestions at the time that much of their financial support came from the Sultan of Brunei was denied.

The protesters' case hinged on the correct interpretation of local development plans. The judge ruled that the

interpretation made by an environment department inspector, who held an enquiry into the proposals, was correct. The inspector decided there was no "presumption" in the plans against a development for extracting minerals. He found that the actual extraction operation was not within the Test Valley although the conveyor belt and despatch operation were.

The judge also rejected an application by Oliver Cutts, a Hampshire landowner, for Mr Ridley's decision to be quashed. Mr Cutts claimed the scheme would "devastate" the area and the residents would have to pay the legal costs of the secretary of state. However, an application for costs against them by Hall Aggregates failed.

After the judgment Roderick Hall, vice-chairman of the management committee of the residents' action group, Save a Valley's Environment, said

they would be consulting their legal advisers about a possible appeal. Lord Denning was not surprised at the outcome. He said from his home in Whitchurch he was "disappointed" and vowed that the fight would go on. The task now was to make representations to the new environment secretary "to say that his predecessor was wrong. We hope the new minister will put the matter right".

Tony Fage, solicitor for Ready Mixed Concrete, said on behalf of Hall Aggregates: "The company is naturally very pleased to have had the decision of the inspector upheld by the judge today." Asked about residents' fears that the countryside would be ruined, he said: "We consider their objections on those grounds are not well-founded.

"The evidence given on these matters at the public enquiry was very fully considered by the inspector."

SCOTLAND'S supreme civil court yesterday reserved judgment on the future of the Hebridean island of Eigg.

The laird, Keith Schellenberg, is appealing to the Court of Session in Edinburgh to overturn a ruling allowing his former wife, the Hon Margaret De Hauteville Udy-Hamilton, to sell the island.

Last year, Lord Prosser, solicitor for Mrs De Hauteville Udy-Hamilton, now Mrs Williams, should be free to sell the island, estimated to be worth £1 million.

A divorce agreement in 1980 laid down that the island should be divided between the couple. Mrs Williams would continue to own half of Eigg but would not be involved in the island's management.

Mr Schellenberg, a former Olympic bobsleigh champion and captain of the Yorkshire rugby union team, transferred

his half share to Cleveland and Highland Holdings, of which he is managing director. Mrs Williams petitioned the court to force sale of the island, which has 70 inhabitants, claiming that Mr Schellenberg was mismanaging the estate and the value of her share was declining.

Yesterday, the advocate Richard Keen said Mr Schellenberg had ceased to be co-proprietor and had no legal right to conduct the business of the island.

The original agreement was that he and Mrs Williams was co-proprietors, but it was not laid down that he should continue running the business of the island if he ceased to be a proprietor.

Mr Schellenberg, it was said, had no title to oppose his former wife's claim because he had sold his half share to Cleveland and Highland Holdings.

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Had all this information come to light in the course of the original trial, the Crown witnesses would have been cross-examined into the ground. That to undermines the whole of the original trial that it is in itself a ground for quashing the convictions."

The Home Office said yesterday there was no limit to the payments the seven may receive if the Court of Appeal rules the convictions cannot stand. David Waddington, the home secretary, is to refer the case to the appeal court on receipt of Sir John May's interim enquiry report, which he is expected to provide speedily.

An application for compensation would be considered by the independent assessor Lord Justice Calcutt. One legal source said the Maguire family and a friend could receive about £10,000 for each year they served in prison. Four people jailed for life for the Guildford pub bombings and released last October each received an immediate interim payment of £50,000 and their lawyers expect final sums of £150,000 each.

The fact that there was some new money at all pleased us. Of course we would like five times that but £5 million is not derisory."

He added: "We are not suggesting this is the final answer. On the contrary this is the beginning, but it is a very positive beginning. The point of the working party is not to talk about the £5 million but about real money for the British film industry and that money has to come in other ways, through television, video or tax incentives of whatever."

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Logic of Maguire case is destroyed, says QC

By MARK SOISTER

THE director of public prosecutions was accused yesterday of "beating a tactical retreat" after declaring the convictions of the Maguire Seven unsafe.

Anthony Arlidge, QC, counsel for the family, said the DPP's conclusion, based only on the possibility that those involved had been innocently contaminated with nitro-gerine "did not do justice to the evidence".

On the closing day of the first stage of the May enquiry, Mr Arlidge said there were other grounds for quashing the convictions. Had the trial judge in 1976 known facts revealed at the inquiry, it was "all but certain" the prosecution would have been withdrawn, at least in part.

Anne Maguire, her sons Patrick and Vincent, her husband Patrick, her brother Sean Smyth, her husband's brother-in-law Giuseppe Conlon, and a family friend, Patrick O'Neill, were sentenced to between five and 14 years after being convicted in 1976 of running an IRA bomb factory. Conlon died in prison.

Mr Arlidge said it was astonishing that forensic scientists had held back evidence that threw doubt on the prosecution case. Those scientists had been discredited. The judge would certainly have summed up the case "wholly differently".

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Test Valley residents lose appeal against gravel site

Laird must wait for isle of Eigg ruling

By KERRY GILL

MORE than 500 residents of the Test Valley, Hampshire, including Lord Denning, failed to persuade the High Court yesterday to overturn the decision by the former environment secretary, Nicholas Ridley, to allow a sand and gravel extraction operation at Kimbridge.

The scheme involves extracting sand and gravel from farmland to be transported across the valley to a despatch and storage site near Mottisfont Abbey, owned by the National Trust. Lord Denning, former Master of the Rolls, David Frost, the television personality, and other valley residents urged Mr Justice Hodges to quash the planning permission granted to Hall Aggregates (South Coast) Ltd, a subsidiary of Ready Mixed Concrete.

The judge also rejected an application by Oliver Cutts, a Hampshire landowner, for Mr Ridley's decision to be quashed. Mr Cutts claimed the scheme would "devastate" the area and the residents would have to pay the legal costs of the secretary of state. Asked about residents' fears that the countryside would be ruined, he said: "We consider their objections on those grounds are not well-founded."

The evidence given on these matters at the public enquiry was very fully considered by the inspector."

Film makers hail Thatcher cash injection for industry

By RICHARD EVANS, MEDIA EDITOR

A CASH boost of £5 million for British film makers and a working party to examine the problems facing the industry were announced by the prime minister yesterday after a Downing Street seminar attended by 20 leading figures in the film industry.

The money combined with the sympathetic hearing given to the main proposals made by film chiefs surprised those present, including Sir Richard Attenborough, chairman of the British Screen Advisory Council, who last night described the three-hour meeting as "very positive".

The Downing Street seminar, chaired by Mrs Thatcher, follows growing concern over the plight of the British film industry which has seen production fall to the lowest point since the 1920s.

The working party, which will have to report back by autumn, will look at the introduction of accelerated write-off procedures for qualifying expenditure on British film production, reducing punitive tax measures which have discouraged foreign actors working in Britain, and modifying the Business Expansion Scheme to encourage production.

The Government will also

encouragement compared to European counterparts and punitive tax measures have been blamed for the decline in the industry.

As well as providing £5 million over the next three years to help British producers seeking to enter European co-productions, the prime minister agreed to set up a working party, chaired by trade and industry secretary Nicholas Ridley, to examine the structure of the film industry.

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The fact that there was some new money at all pleased us. Of course we would like five times that but £5 million is not derisory."

He added: "We are not suggesting this is the final answer. On the contrary this is the beginning, but it is a very positive beginning. The point of the working party is not to talk about the £5 million but about real money for the British film industry and that money has to come in other ways, through television, video or tax incentives of whatever."

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Struggle to haul Britain's Eurotrain out of the sidings



Fletcher: government feared costs spiral

After rejecting £2.6 billion of private sector capital for the Channel tunnel rail link, Cecil Parkinson has set out to finance it without "unacceptable" risk to the taxpayer. Michael Dynes examines the possibilities.

THE spectre of spiralling costs, similar to those experienced by Eurotunnel, appears to have played a central role in the government's decision to reject the European Rail Link (ERL) consortium's proposal for a Channel tunnel rail link.

Eurotunnel's cost increases, from £4.7 billion in 1987 to £7.5 billion by this year, were seen as a dangerous precedent that made ministers extremely nervous about backing the ERL scheme, according to John Fletcher, chairman of the Eurotunnel private sector partnership.

The consortium insists, however, there is no comparison between the two schemes. The tunnel is a "fast-track" construction project on which work began before the design

was completed, while the rail link was fully designed and engineered before any work was scheduled to begin, it said.

Unexpected cost increases could not be ruled out, particularly as a quarter of the proposed route is in tunnel. However, ERL would have started from a far more financially secure position, and would not have faced the risk of the scale of cost increases experienced by Eurotunnel. The consortium is less than happy about the way Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, presented the various costs involved in the ERL scheme, which were described as a "£2 billion government subsidy to finance a £4 billion project". Mr Parkinson said the

conversion of the £1.1 billion into a loan for ERL was money that had to be spent in preparation for when the tunnel opens in 1993.

ERL proposal involved a £400 million contribution from Network SouthEast, a £500 million capital grant, and the conversion of the £1.1 billion being spent on upgrading the existing line into a low-interest loan, repayable in full by 2010.

According to ERL, the cost involved a £400 million "user fee" from Network SouthEast, in exchange for rights to a quarter of the new line's capacity between Folkestone and Swanley, and half of the capacity from there to King's Cross. The £500 million was a capital grant to Network SouthEast, which it would have required for developments at King's Cross to provide through services for Kent commuters. The grant had nothing to do with the cost of the ERL scheme.

Conversion of the £1.1 billion into a loan for ERL was money that had to be spent in preparation for when the tunnel opens in 1993.

Finally, Mr Parkinson made no mention of the private capital to be put into the scheme. Mr Parkinson thus rejected £2.6 billion of private sector capital for the proposed 68-mile route because of the £2 billion of public sector capital requested to underwrite it. £1.5 billion of which (loan plus capital grant) it would have had to spend in any case.

Mr Parkinson told the Commons that the ERL scheme involved an unacceptable financial risk for the taxpayer, and immediately set Robert Reid, British Rail's new chairman, who is knighted today, the task of re-examining the route to see what additional savings could be made. Much of this effort is likely to be concentrated on the route's "missing link" between the North Downs and King's Cross. By maximising commuter revenues, it may be possible to reduce further the project's costs. But they would

have to be substantial savings to make any significant inroads into the size of the public sector contribution requested by ERL unless the government is prepared to make do with a partial line.

Although welcoming Mr Parkinson's commitment to the high-speed link, Sir Robert is aware it can proceed only as a public sector enterprise, backed by public funds, or as a joint venture, in which the private sector partner would still demand some financial guarantee from the taxpayer. This dilemma could result in the revival of the ERL partnership within the year.

Examining the British situation after a decade of success at building high-speed railways, John Pierre Louison, managing director of French Railways UK, points out that, unlike France, Britain has yet to appreciate that a modern railway infrastructure soon pays for itself.

Saunders illness halts Guinness trial

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE Guinness trial was halted yesterday for the second time this week after Ernest Saunders said he would be unable to continue giving evidence in his defence.

His counsel, Richard Ferguson, QC, said that Mr Saunders was having trouble with his voice and it was feared it could be a recurrence of a thyroid condition.

Mr Saunders had been expected to conclude his evidence-in-chief yesterday on what would have been his seventh day in the witness box at Southwark Crown Court, south London.

Later, outside the court, Mr Ferguson said it was hoped that Mr Saunders' breathing difficulties, sore throat and high temperature might be the symptoms of influenza, which would resolve themselves over the weekend.

The last time Mr Saunders suffered thyroid problems, a year ago, he was ill for six weeks.

The judge, Mr Justice Henry, accepted Mr Ferguson's suggestion that Mr Saunders should consult a specialist at Guy's Hospital who could prepare a report for the court on Monday. A decision would then be made on whether the trial can continue.

Sending the jury home for the day, the judge told them: "Clearly Mr Saunders is in no state of health to give a proper account of himself."

One day of the trial was lost last Wednesday after a problem involving a junior, who was subsequently discharged.

Mr Saunders, Gerald Ronson, the head of Heron International, the stockbroker Anthony Barnes, and the financier Sir Jack Lyons deny 24 counts of their false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act. The charges arise from the Guinness takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986.

Villagers 'vote out' council

Villagers at Sutton Bridge, Lincolnshire, yesterday voted by a 28 majority for their parish council to resign after disagreements about industrial expansion and the way the authority is run. Nine hundred and thirteen people (34 per cent) voted.

John Coote, a councillor and former chairman, said: "I have no intention of resigning. We can stand at next year's elections."

TV apology

Channel 4 Television apologised to the McDonald's Corporation yesterday for screening a programme that implied it was responsible for the destruction of rain forests in Costa Rica to raise cattle for hamburgers. The TV company also agreed to pay McDonald's costs in settlement of a libel action at the High Court in London.

Drug testing

Parents have supported proposals for random drug tests at Marlborough College, Wiltshire, after the expulsion of seven students in February for smoking cannabis.

Male suicides

Research by a team at Leicester University shows that between 1980 and 1988 the suicide rate for men aged between 15 and 24 rose by 86 per cent. This was claimed in the BBC television programme *Public Eye* last night.

Relics removed

A display of shrunken Maori heads has been removed from Whithby museum, north Yorkshire, where they had been on show for more than a century, after complaints by two New Zealand tourists who said the reliefs could cause offence to Maori visitors.

Soldiers held

Two members of the First Battalion, the Black Watch, which is deployed along the Irish border, were being held yesterday on drug charges.

Rail patrol

British Rail police are to patrol accident "black spots" in an attempt to catch hooligans throwing stones at trains. Police chiefs in Bristol fear that, after the recent spate of attacks, it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

School sale

Hertfordshire county council is planning to sell Hadham Hall School, near Bishop's Stortford, reported to have been used as a hunting lodge by Queen Elizabeth I, for an estimated £5 million.

Consumers' right over faulty goods 'threatened'

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMERS may lose the right to reject faulty goods that they have not had a chance to examine because of changes to the law coming before the House of Lords for debate next week.

The National Consumer Council is concerned that under the Consumers' Guarantees Bill, the buyer's right to reject will be lost, despite the backing that this provision originally won from five law lords and the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Gardiner.

Guy Dehn, the council's legal officer, said: "This is a right that affects almost every citizen. We fear that if this bill goes through as it stands, a shop or garage will be able to assert to a customer, shortly

Visa loses surcharge challenge

VISA International, the credit card company, has failed in its High Court attempt to block government moves to force it to allow shops to offer discounts for cash or surcharge card-paying customers.

Visa, which has more than 21,000 member banks and building societies worldwide, wanted Mr Justice Hodgeson to declare that a trade secretary's decision to end the company's no-discrimination rule was ultra vires, void and of no effect.

Visa argued that the government's action was based on a "legally flawed" report published last August by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The report concluded that Visa and its banks were part of a complex monopoly and that the no-discrimination rule, forbidding traders who accept Visa cards to impose any surcharge on transactions, operated against the public interest.

Dismissing Visa's case, with costs, the judge said the commission was entitled to find that a complex monopoly had existed and had made no error in law.

The court should be slow to dismiss the commission from recommending action considered to be in the public interest or to prevent the trade secretary from acting on it unless any perceived errors of law were both material and substantial.

Family Money, page 23



Leonie Morris, aged eight, of the Prior Weston school, is tossed in a blanket at British Telecom in the City of London, in the ancient beating the bounds ceremony to remind her where the Aldersgate boundary lies. It passes through the building. In the Middle Ages, boys were birched as a reminder of their parish boundaries

Imbert attacks prison system

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

SIR Peter Imbert, the metropolitan police commissioner, yesterday criticised the failure of the modern prison system to reform criminals.

A steep rise in the level of dissatisfaction with goods from 20 per cent of the adult population in 1985 to 38 per cent in 1988 suggests the problem is worsening, the council says. Some retailers are also starting to insist household goods are accepted within seven days of purchase.

The council is backing an amendment, to be put forward by Lady Ewart-Biggs, which would make clear that there must be a "reasonable opportunity" for the buyer to examine the goods.

Sir Peter, addressing a conference in London to commemorate the bi-centenary of Howard's death, praised a speech made earlier by Tom Conti, the actor, who claimed that most people turned to crime because of social and economic factors and said prison, for most offenders, was about as sensible as a doctor rubbing glass into an open wound. "Two

hundred years after the death of John Howard it is a matter of regret that so much of his work remains to be done," Sir Peter said.

However, the commissioner claimed that the past two or three years had seen the development of an encouraging new partnership in tackling crime, involving the various criminal justice agencies, government, businesses and the public. Such work, he said, was vital. "The future does look better for joint efforts to prevent crime and the criminalisation of our younger generation."

Mr Conti said that prison was an inappropriate penalty as so much crime was caused by personal stress brought on, for example, by broken families or violent parents. Punishment for such offenders, he claimed, was illogical.

Richard Weyck, an American

businessman, said: "There was an explosion from the rear of the aircraft and people began yelling. It was a frightening experience. A lot of people were convinced there was a fire but there was no real panic. The cabin crew handled everything well."

Michael Marzetti, aged 19, of Eden Park, Bromley, Kent, said: "There was a bang, and then it smelled as if something was burning. People were shouting to stop the plane. When it came to a halt the doors opened and everyone rushed out."

The cause was discovered later to be a fault in the air pressurisation system. According to airport sources, indications were that the explosion was caused by a burst pressurised air duct. There was no fire.

Vicky Lambert, an American holidaymaker from Ohio, said: "The aircraft had started accelerating and there was a bang. I am continuing my journey but it is very worrying."

Strangeways staff accused of putting own safety first

STAFF at Strangeways prison appeared to have been more concerned with their own safety than with controlling the riot, counsel to Lord Justice Woolf's enquiry suggested yesterday. A prison officer said that, as violence erupted, officers in the main prison were brought to the centre of the jail, from where they were later withdrawn.

The enquiry has been told that rioting inmates gained control of the prison after breaking through from the chapel at the level of the fourth landing.

David Latham, QC, counsel to the enquiry, asked James Johnson, who was an acting senior officer operating as centre co-ordinator on the morning of the riot: "Did anyone suggest they might consider going to the fourth level to see the extent to which the chapel could be contained?" Mr Johnson replied: "Not to my knowledge."

Mr Johnson said that a colleague, Prison Officer Rigby, had decided to congregate the officers at the second level in the centre of the jail after hearing the

center of the main prison, centre to have panicked.

Mr Johnson told Malcolm Lee, QC, for the Prison Officers' Association, that on the morning of the disturbance he had handed over to superior officers documents containing the warnings that there was going to be trouble.

He was asked about what Mr Lee called a "nightmarish quarter of an hour" in the control box after the riot erupted.

Mr Johnson said he was joined in the box by Gordon Morrison, one of the governor grades. "Mr Morrison was stood behind me. In my opinion he did not give any leadership qualities whatsoever. To me he was frightened and, I believe, panicked."

Mr Morrison eventually gave the order for staff to retreat from the main prison.

Mr Johnson said he would have expected that some type of contingency plan should have been put into operation. He had handed over the warnings to governors and a meeting had been held.

The enquiry continues on Monday.

Killer on run caught in coal bunker

By PETER DAVENPORT

ALAN Lord, a ringleader of the Strangeways riot who escaped from a police cell on the eve of the first public session of Lord Justice Woolf's enquiry into the disturbances, was back in custody yesterday after an operation involving 60 officers and a helicopter.

The convicted murderer, aged 29, one of the last seven inmates to resist the authorities during the prison siege, smashed his way through the doors and windows of three houses in an attempt to escape police who raided the house in Liverpool where he was hiding.

As a police helicopter hovered overhead, Lord was finally discovered in a back yard coal bunker. He was slightly injured during the chase, mainly with cuts from broken glass, but he refused medical help. Merseyside police said that Lord was taken to Wakefield prison.

Lord was one of the last seven inmates to continue the siege at Strangeways and was captured two days before it ended. Brendan O'Friel, the prison governor, later said that the capture, part of a "brilliant operation" by prison officers, was vital to the

success of the offensive that finally ended the 25-day siege. Lord was being held in a police cell in Bolton, where he was awaiting transfer to Wakefield prison, when he escaped on Sunday. He is believed to have got the keys to his cell door. Yesterday, Det Supt Albert Kirby, of

Merseyside serious crime squad, who headed the operation that succeeded in re-taking the prison, said that Lord had been captured by 60 officers from the Merseyside and Greater Manchester forces.

Mr Kirby described Lord's attempt to escape police as they raided a terrace house in Alwyn Street, Aigburth, Liverpool shortly before midnight on Thursday, after a tip-off. "Lord was very alarmed and surprised when we went in. While trying to escape he jumped over several walls and forced entry into three houses, smashing his way through doors and windows."

Anne Brown told yesterday how her husband, David, tussled with Lord after he burst into their home through a window. "He crashed in through the back window and we were terrified. There was blood everywhere. My husband jumped up to challenge him but he threw him out of the way. The police came in seconds later but he had already dived out through the front door."

Lord was finally cornered in the coal bunker at the home of Shelagh Allen, on Allington Street. She said the police dragged him out and handcuffed him as he lay on the ground.

• William Gould, aged 42, was accused at Manchester City magistrates' court yesterday of inciting Alan Lord and other prisoners to burn down Strangeways prison. He pleaded not guilty and was bailed until August 28.

Mrs Allen shows the bunker where Lord was hiding

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Israelis go on rampage in revenge for stabbing

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

HUNDREDS of angry Israelis rampaged through an Arab village on the outskirts of Jerusalem in the early hours of yesterday morning smashing windows, attacking cars and setting fire to fields, in revenge for the stabbing on Thursday of an 11-year-old Jewish boy in the next-door suburb of East Talpiot.

"We have to teach the Arabs a lesson," one of the rioters said as the demonstrators ran through the village of Tsur Bahir.

The village, a picturesque collection of flat-roofed houses and mosques set on a hillside, has always been a stronghold of Hamas, the Islamic fundamentalist organisation, and tensions with Jewish neighbours in East Talpiot have always run high. Yesterday they snapped, as Arab youths fought back and riot police intervened with tear gas and rubber bullets. Police continued their search for the Arab woman who stabbed the boy at a bus stop, amid reports that the attacker may have been a man in disguise.

The violence reflects growing mutual fear and hostility among Arabs and Jews,

following the massacre of Arab labourers near Tel Aviv by a deranged Israeli gunman a month ago. The atmosphere has deteriorated markedly in the three months since the Likud-Labour "national unity" coalition collapsed in mid-March, and the subsequent collapse of American-backed efforts to secure an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

Jewish fears of Arab violence and distrust of "moderation" on the part of the Palestine Liberation Organisation were reinforced by the explosion in Jerusalem's Jewish market at the end of last month, and the attempt by Palestinian gunmen to land on a busy Israeli beach a few days later in a sea-borne assault.

But for Palestinians, there is even deeper fear, close to despair: that the apparent end of the American peace plan and the formation this week of a narrow-based right-wing Israeli government, spell doom for any hope of an independent Palestine in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. That is despite decades of diplomatic effort, and two and a half years of the *intifada*, the Palestinian uprising.

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Colonel is shot dead in Spain

Valladolid — Suspected left-wing guerrillas shot dead a Spanish army colonel in here yesterday in apparent revenge for the death in jail of a hunger striker, one of their comrades. Witnesses said a man and a woman shot Manuel López Muñoz three times. The attack occurred in the centre of Valladolid, 125 miles northwest of Madrid. The couple had been waiting in a bar near his home and escaped after the attack.

Residents said they had seen the two in the area over the past few days, apparently preparing the assassination.

Black hole image clearest yet

Sydney — Australian and American astronomers have produced the clearest images yet of a black hole thought to exist at the centre of the galaxy, an object so powerful it devours an entire sun every 10,000 years.

The images released this week at an astronomers' symposium in Albuquerque, New Mexico, after months of computer processing, appear to show the black hole's powerful gravitational pull stripping matter from nearby stars.

Made by a giant radio telescope array near Socorro, New Mexico, the images also show floating debris surrounding the hole.

Cold comfort for noises off

Sydney — The Sydney Opera House will hand out 20,000 throat lozenges over the next two months in an attempt to achieve the near-impossible — a coughless concert.

The Opera House said yesterday it had begun a Coughless Concert series sponsored by a maker of lozenges. (Reuters)

The Palestinians fear that with extreme-right ministers such as Ariel Sharon in the government, Israel under Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, will use both biblical and security arguments to annex the West Bank and Gaza and form a "Greater Israel", in which the demographic balance will forever be altered by a massive settlement of Soviet Jews. Several far-right parties in the new government, such as Moledet and Tsiyya, openly advocate the "transfer" or deportation of Arab populations from "Greater Israel".

Geula Cohen, the Tsiyya leader who used to be seen as a marginal figure but is now a deputy minister, patrolled Tsur Bahir in a police car warning that further "Arab terrorism" would lead to the deportation of whole villages.

The question is no longer whether we can negotiate a Palestinian state," said Sari Nusseibeh, a leading Palestinian intellectual. "The question is whether there will be any room for us Arabs at all in the territories, or even in east Jerusalem."

In 1967, Mr Nusseibeh says, there were almost no Jews in east Jerusalem. Now there are as many Jews as Arabs, as thousands of Soviet immigrants settle in Jewish suburbs built on annexed Arab land. "I foresee a West Bank drowned in Jewish immigrants," Mr Nusseibeh said. "This makes any kind of compromise over land impossible."

There are no indications so far that either Mr Shamir or his senior ministers in the new administration intend to bow to pressure from the far right on the question of annexation or deportation.

Mr Shamir insisted that his position had not "hardened", and he remained ready for talks with a Palestinian delegation on elections in the West Bank and Gaza leading to "autonomy" or self-rule consistent with the Camp David accords.

Mr Shamir's aides said this, however, the peace plan put forward in May last year by the previous Likud-Labour coalition, adding that there never had been any prospect of a Palestinian state. (Reuters)



Islamic win alarms Algeria's neighbours

From SUSAN MACDONALD IN ALGIERS

THOUSANDS flocked yesterday to the Kouba mosque in the Algiers suburbs to hear their idol, the radical preacher Ali Bel Hadj, harangue them on God's purpose in winning the simultaneous local and regional elections held here on Tuesday.

The Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) has gained about 55 per cent of the local and provincial councils, with the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) trailing with around 34 per cent. It was a humiliating moment for Mohammed Hammadi, the interior minister and a leading light in the FLN. With dignity, he said that the FLN could be proud of the fact they had ushered in democracy in Algeria by abolishing the one-party state, recognising more than 20 opposition parties, including the salvation front, and organising the first multi-party local elections.

"You call this democracy?" said one Algerian journalist, overcome by the news. "I hope," said the minister, "that you are not expecting me to criticise a group of people openly elected by the people?"

Having cleared their first hurdle, the Islamic front is now calling for the immediate dissolution of the all-FLN

With an official 65.15 per cent turnout at the polls, the Islamic front has gained 32 of the 48 provincial councils in Algeria and 853 of the 1,537 local councils. The FLN maintained control in 14 provinces and 48 local councils with the others going to independent candidates and smaller parties, many of whom were elected completely.

Every one of the local councils in the capital, Algiers, has been won by the Islamic front, which also has overall control in other leading towns such as Constantine and Oran. The low turnout undoubtedly helped the Islamic front to this decisive victory, as did the new voting system. Almost six million Algerians eligible to do so did not vote.

Many boycotted the polls on the orders of Hocine Ait Ahmed, one of the famed leaders of Algeria during its bloody eight-year war of independence from France and still a name to conjure with here.

Having cleared their first hurdle, the Islamic front is now calling for the immediate dissolution of the all-FLN

national assembly in preparation for a general election. President Chadli Bendjedid plans national elections in two years' time, but he and his government will be hard pressed to resist the pressure that the Islamic Salvation Front has shown itself capable of mounting.

Politics in Algeria have been thrown wide open by this local level victory, and no one is more concerned for the future throughout North Africa than Algeria's neighbours, Tunisia and Morocco. President Bourguiba's removal from power three years ago was largely due to Islamic fundamentalist pressure. His successor, President Bel Ali, lifted that pressure by releasing Islamic leaders under sentence of death and allowing others to return home from exile.

However, he has stopped short of recognising the Tunisian Islamic fundamentalist party and privately thinks that President Chadli has been a tool for doing so. The continued ban has not stopped the Tunisian fundamentalists from gaining ground among

people who might not agree with their extremism but feel they are the only real opposition to the government.

The FIS president, Abbasi Madani, has said he will not interfere in Tunisian and Moroccan politics, but the Algerian fundamentalist victory will act as a spur to their Tunisian "brothers" as it will to the more fragmented outlawed fundamentalist groups in Morocco, who are, however, gaining in strength as Moroccans suffer increasing economic hardship and the rigours of King Hassan's system of government.

The King has ordered the rounding up of several Islamic fundamentalist leaders this year, who are now serving prison sentences. Both the Moroccan and Tunisian leaders are extremely worried about the contagious effects of the Algerian fundamentalist success — a worry that will paradoxically increase if the promise of behaving responsibly and following the democratic road to power.

The FIS has not yet responded to the outcome of these local elections. When it does, that will pave the way for the next step in Algerian politics.

bomb attacks and murders of public figures, including the murder in 1984 of the Justice Minister, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. His killing is likely to open a new, brutal phase in the 10-month-old drug war, which had died down since the May 28 presidential elections won by the Liberal, Cesar Gavira.

Rival blacks agree truce

From GAVIN BELL
IN JOHANNESBURG

RIVAL black nationalist organisations in South Africa have signed an interim pact to halt fighting between their supporters in which at least two have been killed and several wounded.

The essence of the agreement between the African National Congress and the smaller but more radical Pan Africanist Congress is political tolerance, recognising freedom of expression and the right to belong to either organization without fear of intimidation. A joint committee is being established to monitor the accord, the first of its kind, and to identify "sinister forces" who are suspected of exploiting political tension in black communities.

The government ban on the two groups was lifted in February, and sporadic violence has been reported since. The worst incidents took place recently in Vosloorus township, east of Johannesburg. Student leaders on both sides have called a meeting of youths in Vosloorus next Friday to explain the pact's terms.

Benny Alexander, general secretary of the "internal" wing of the PAC, said: "This is a beacon of hope, and an example for the rest of the country. We hope there will be peace between the liberation movements." That said, Mr Alexander proceeded to distance his organization from ANC policies which, he said, were leading nowhere.

Addressing a foreign correspondents luncheon, he laid down three conditions for joining the ANC in negotiations with Pretoria: the government must accept (black) majority rule, redistribution of land, and creation of a constituent assembly to draw up a new constitution. The PAC proposes a 265-member assembly elected on a proportional representation basis.

Thus while the ANC is prepared to negotiate for such goals, the PAC requires prior commitments which Mr Alexander readily concedes are unlikely. "We don't believe the government will agree to our conditions, so there is no immediate prospect of a settlement."

Mr Zeph Mophopeng, the PAC president, has expressed its creed in succinct terms: "Slaves have nothing to gain from negotiating with their masters."

PAC militants given to wearing T-shirts with the legend "one settler one bullet" have a deliberately ambivalent attitude towards their so-called armed struggle. Mr Alexander drew parallels with the Irish conflict in describing the internal wing as a political body like Sinn Fein. He said support for PAC military operations comes from Iran, Libya and China.

In concluding remarks hardy in keeping with this week's peace accord, he dismissed Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, with contempt: "Mandela's release was the best thing that could have happened for the PAC. The myths which surrounded him in prison are dissolving like mist in the morning sun."

Family freed: Pretoria has negotiated the release of a South African family by rebels in Mozambique and is evacuating them by warship. Pik Botha, South Africa's foreign minister, said yesterday.

David and Sandy Muller and their children Tammy, aged eight, and Seth, five, were captured by Renamo guerrillas when their yacht ran aground on April 28.

The foreign ministry said the family had been flown by helicopter to the ship Tafelberg, which President Chissano had allowed into Mozambique's territorial waters.

South Africa once supported Renamo against Mozambique's left-wing government but says it no longer does so. (Reuters)

Parliament

'EC accepting Britain's view'

SIGNS are appearing that European Community governments are accepting the British approach on economic and monetary union. Peter Lilley, financial secretary to the Treasury, told MPs yesterday. They were moving away from stage three of the Delors plan which involved the establishment of a central bank and a single currency, he said.

Speaking during a Commons debate on developments in the EC, he said that both sides of the House supported the first stage of the Delors proposals, which included entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System (EMS) and rejected the third stage of Delors.

Joining the exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) did not mean a loss of sovereignty. Pegged exchange rates did not automatically lead to a single currency. There had been other fixed rate systems, such as Bretton Woods, none of which had produced a single currency. "It is not an inevitable consequence," he said.

Fixing the exchange rate was a sovereign decision to be taken or not taken as a country chose, but it could not be taken wholly unilaterally.

By contrast the proposal to share a single currency and a single bank went to the heart of

sovereignty and self-government. The government hoped to reach a consensus within Europe on the practical approach to economic and monetary union. There were already good signs that an agreement could be reached.

Opening the debate, Brian Sedgeman (Hackney South and Shoreditch, Lab) said that there was an aura of arrogance in the prime minister's view as she blocked progress in the community time and time again. She moved from false premise to false conclusion by somewhat suspect logic. Was it any wonder that the government dithered about when Britain would join the ERM, fulminated against monetary union or the idea of a single currency, and believed that proposals for European political integration threatened the very existence of democracy that the government seemed to understand?

It was now anxious to steal Labour's clothes and get Britain into the ERM, preferably later this year but certainly before the next general election.

Although there were some steps which the next Labour government could take to reduce inflation, particularly government-induced inflation, it would find itself forced back



Mr Sedgeman: Arrogance in the prime minister's view

into a statutory prices and incomes policy if Britain was not in the ERM. "The political consequences of a return to such a policy would be disastrous and thoroughly unacceptable," he said.

Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal Democrat spokesman on Europe, said that the opponents of more integration came more from the gulf than from the head. It was almost a matter of religious faith that Britain was better. He did not accept that Britain was better, or worse.

The great attraction of a European bank was its independence.

It would be unacceptable to have central European determination of the fiscal policies and budgetary deficits or surpluses of individual EC states or to have an independent central bank with unelected bankers exercising control over important matters of economic policy.

The employment bill, which outlaws closed shop and curbs wild-cat strikes, was given an unopposed second reading in the Lords. The Bill has already been through the Commons.

From SUSAN ELICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

THE US government this week published its latest version of the "great American novel", a weighty volume in which the protagonist is an anonymous person whose calorie consumption has been increasing steadily over the past two decades and whose two favourite spectator sports are horse racing and baseball.

The book is short on plot and its title, *Statistical Abstract of the United States 1990*, is hardly catchy. But its 991 pages and 1,532 tables form an almanac of facts that give shape, especially in its eating habits, to this nation of 250 million people. The archetypal US couch potato, the government found, now drinks more than 30 gallons of soft drink a year, or more than one and a half the amount swallowed in 1970.

The one thing the book does not explain is why anything happens. Its readers are expected to look between the lines to work out why a nation of people who have been frantically cutting back on full-fat milk over the past 13 years have raised their intake of cream to 4.7

gallons annually from 3.8 gallons in 1970. It appears they could be trying to compensate for the indulgence by eating more yoghurt — a staggering 4.6 gallons more than two years ago compared with 0.8 gallons in 1970.

Mysteriously, the humble and healthy grapefruit has fallen out of favour. The average American now eats only 6.5 lb of grapefruit compared with 7.9 lb in 1970.

Overall, despite a barrage of advertising warning people to watch their weight, cholesterol, sodium and other sensitive levels, Americans are also apparently eating more. The government statistics report that since 1960 the average daily intake of calories in the United States has risen steadily from 3,100 to 3,500 in 1985.

Reflecting America's sweet tooth, *The New York Times* recently published an article on receipts sent in by readers who use soft drinks in their cooking. Their favourite dishes include Coca-Cola in icing and in thick barbecue sauce, and apple dumplings with 7-Up.

Figures expose shape of America

From SUSAN ELICOTT
IN WASHINGTON

THE US government this week published its latest version of the "great American novel", a weighty volume in which the protagonist is an anonymous person whose calorie consumption has been increasing steadily over the past two decades and whose two favourite spectator sports are horse racing and baseball.

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Romania opposition leader defiant after miners wreck house

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BUCHAREST

ION Ratiu, one of three candidates in last month's Romanian elections, stood among the twisted wreckage of his government-supplied villa yesterday and vowed to stay on in the country and continue his fight for democracy.

Mr Ratiu, aged 72 and a multi-millionaire, stood for the right-wing National Peasant Party. As he surveyed the broken furniture, destroyed clothing and smashed electronic equipment, he said: "I came back from exile to try and help establish democracy, so naturally I never expected anything like this to happen. But you can be sure that I intend to stay and continue the fight. The first thing I want to do is to make a speech about the terrible things that are happening to the new parliament."

One of Mr Ratiu's staff had sought sanctuary in the British embassy after rampaging miners attacked the house late on Thursday night.

It was the former villa of an arrested ex-mayor of Bucharest, situated close to where the Ceausescus used to live in tasteless splendour.

"I said at the time that the election was a massive fraud,

and I think that this proves my point, certainly about intimidation," Mr Ratiu added after spending the night clearing the debris after a brief amnesty by the miners and two hours at government headquarters nearby.

The government claims that the miners came to restore order. But what sort of order is it when things like this can happen? I refuse to be intimidated or to leave the country, as I know many of these things are demanding."

Mr Ratiu has been depicted in the propaganda of the ruling National Salvation Front as the archetypal uncaring capitalist boss who would put workers out in the streets if he ever won power. Government officials openly blame the NPP for the riots which followed this week's forcible breaking-up of the marathon anti-government protest in Bucharest.

The treatment meted out to Mr Ratiu is expected to become the subject of international protests. Even after the attack, the guard on his villa and former campaign headquarters was minimal, and mounted by policemen openly critical of him.

About his own plans, he said: "I am going to stay and be a politician, there is no doubt about that. The first thing the government must do is to display some authority, and send these miners back home where they belong."

Every room in the villa had been vandalised. Foreign liquor and clothing had been stolen, as had instant coffee and stocks of other goods not readily available in Romania.

One of Mr Ratiu's staff was in the British embassy after having more than \$900 (£529) stolen by the miners. He and Mr Ratiu had tried to escape by climbing out of a window and over roofs.

A miner aims a blow at a Romanian woman being dragged away by his colleagues in University Square, Bucharest. Despite an international outcry, miners continued their attacks on "anti-government" targets

Bishop says a second revolution possible

From REUTER IN PARIS

LASZLO Tokes, the clergyman who sparked Romania's uprising in December, said yesterday conditions existed for a second revolution.

The Right Rev Tokes, now the Protestant Bishop of Oradea, said that dissidents in Romania "are now back in

exactly the same situation they were last December ... Conditions for a second revolution appear to exist."

The bishop said the government of President Iliescu was becoming more compromised every day. "I was already convinced before the elections that the apparent stabilisation in the country would be of

very short duration if there was no possibility of achieving peace."

• Asylum plea: More than 30 Romanians belonging to political parties opposed to the government of Ion Iliescu have asked for asylum in France because they fear for their lives should they return (Philip Jacobson writes).

Part of a larger delegation that had arrived in Lyons a week ago, they claim to have received death threats before and after the country's recent elections and cite the present violence in Bucharest as proof that nothing has changed.

Most of the asylum-seekers, who are now being looked after by religious and humanitarian organisations, belong to the Peasants party or the Liberal party.

Pressure by EC on trade

From MICHAEL BINNIN IN BRUSSELS

THE European Community is expected to suspend ratification of a trade and co-operation agreement with Romania because of the riots and unrest in the country.

A commission spokesman said yesterday that community foreign ministers, meeting in Luxembourg on Monday, were very unlikely to endorse the agreement, initiated in Brussels only on June 8. Bruce Millan, the commissioner for regional development, told the European Parliament in Strasbourg yesterday that he did not think the agreement would be ratified, but the full commission itself has not discussed the latest situation.

The agreement, replacing a narrower 1980 agreement on trade in industrial goods, is the last such "first generation" accord still to be signed with an East European country. It removes some tariff barriers, liberalises exchanges, promotes trade and investment and give general encouragement to economic relations.

Negotiation of such an agreement was previously held up because of the community's condemnation of the Ceausescu government's record on human rights. But after the revolution in December, Bucharest made it clear to Brussels that it wanted the same benefits as other East European countries as swiftly as possible.

Responsibility for trade policy towards Romania falls awkwardly between the commission and EC foreign ministers, who jealously guard the separate political co-operation mechanism. But a suspension of the agreement is a clear signal to Bucharest that the community is disturbed by the turn of events in Romania.

The commission said on Thursday that it was "shocked and disappointed" at the use of violence by the Romanian authorities, which was contrary to commitments given to senior EC representatives.

Mob rule leaves trail of despair

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN BUCHAREST

CORNEL Guiran, the affable driver for Egypt's embassy in Bucharest, did only one thing wrong. He had darker than normal skin, which caused the avenging miners imposing mob rule on the citizens of the capital to mistake the Romanian for a gypsy.

As a result, he was lying on a stretcher in the city's main emergency hospital yesterday with both legs in plaster from ankle to thigh, a deep wound around his eye and horrific weals over most of his bruised body, inflicted by beatings with iron rods.

"They thought I was a gypsy and they did not bother to check. They just beat me until I could no longer walk or see properly," he explained haltingly at a massive press conference staged by doctors to display the injuries inflicted on some of the 462 people who were admitted to hospital this week.

"They are barbarians. They are not Romanians, they are barbarians," claimed a hospital orderly who was so upset and infuriated that he insisted we inspect all the grotesque wounds that were inflicted on Mr Guiran. Encouraged by government propaganda of the crudest nature, the miners have blamed the gypsies for being behind the marathon anti-communist protest which was broken up this week.

The attack on Mr Guiran, an innocent passer-by who may never be able to return to his job or walk properly again, was typical of hundreds mounted here in broad daylight. They continued yesterday as miners acting as vigilantes toured the city in hooting lorries and buses. The international outcry seemed not to have affected them beyond increasing their antagonism towards the international media.

By noon the number of deaths in the violence had risen to six and it was expected to go higher.

"You see some of the incidents, but we see the worst of the results here. It is hard for us to comprehend that these were inflicted by our countrymen on each other," one doctor said. "What is more sick-making is that our government is letting this happen."

Next to Mr Guiran was a terrified student, aged 27, who was attacked yesterday morning as he attempted to catch a minibus to attend lectures.

Many embassies have reported a surge in visa applications since the violence began.

"Unhappily for Romania, most of those applying are members of the intelligentsia, people who should be building the country after communism, not escaping from it," one diplomat said.

The depths to which hatreds between the working class and the students have plummeted was illustrated by the case of Marian Munteanu, the articulate student leader and chief organiser of the anti-government protest which lasted 53 days. He was picked out by miners and beaten into a coma. "The maids in this hospital hate me so much that they spit on me and bang my wounds when the doctors are not looking," Mr Munteanu said yesterday.

Lying with a drip and severe arm and leg injuries as well as a swollen face, Mr Munteanu added: "The ordinary people have been made to think that I was being paid in dollars. But all I wanted was to tell the truth about communism."

Nato rejects Soviet missile talks offer

From MICHAEL BINNIN IN BRUSSELS

NATO yesterday rejected a Soviet offer to begin talks this autumn on removing all short-range nuclear weapons from Europe, pointing out that the recent Turnberry statement insisted that such talks would have to wait until after a new agreement had been signed on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE).

The Soviet offer, made to the United States, proposed beginning talks independent of CFE in September or October. Moscow wants to discuss eliminating all ground-based missiles, nuclear artillery and nuclear aircraft bombs from Europe. NATO estimates that the Soviet Union has 14 times as many nuclear missiles as the alliance.

An alliance spokesman here said yesterday that the offer would be discussed at the Nato summit in London on July 5 and 6. He pointed out that President Bush had agreed in May to speed up the elimination of such weapons, but the Nato foreign ministers has insisted at Turnberry that they would not contemplate

such talks before a CFE agreement was in place.

With the elimination of medium-range weapons in 1987, short-range weapons have proved to be the most controversial of the arms-control issues still facing the alliance. West Germany argued forcefully for the abolition of such weapons last year while Mrs Thatcher insisted they should remain in the Nato arsenal. The disagreement eased earlier this year, and the alliance has agreed to drop plans to modernise its Lance missiles and nuclear artillery shells.

The Soviet offer reportedly includes short-range nuclear weapons under French control and thus not under Nato command. Paris is certain to reject such an inclusion of its weapons in any talks.

Most Nato short-range weapons are based in West Germany, where there is growing anti-nuclear sentiment. The Soviet offer appears timed to influence the general election campaign in Germany, which goes to the polls in early December.

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Mob rule leaves trail of despair

EC to reject Efta claim for equality in new group

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community foreign ministers are likely to give a tart response on Monday to demands by the European Free Trade Association for joint decision making in the proposed 18-nation European Economic Space.

Community leaders have long insisted that, while Efta can share in preliminary consultations, the six Nordic and Alpine nations cannot join in fashioning EC legislation. The more federalist members of the community have strong reservations about any formula that would slow EC integration or dilute its political cohesion.

Forging closer co-operation with Efta is one of the main tasks facing the EC this year, and is a vital plank in the construction of a unified Europe. The EC wants to extend full freedom of labour, capital, goods and services to Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Austria and Switzerland, together with Liechtenstein, counted in the negotiations as a separate entity.

But hopes in Brussels that a reinvigorated Efta might be used as a halfway house for East European countries unwilling yet to take on all the commitments of full EC membership were dashed by Efta leaders at their summit in Gothenburg on Thursday.

"They had better forget about that idea," Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish prime minister, declared.

EC leaders will review the changing architecture of Europe at their Dublin summit in 10 days' time, and on Monday their foreign ministers are likely to approve, with few changes, the tough negotiating mandate drawn up by the European Commission.

Community officials here suggested yesterday that the Efta stance may only be an opening bargaining position.

Formal talks are expected to begin on Wednesday. In the wake of demands by Efta leaders for a "genuine joint decision-making mechanism in substance and form" there is every sign that these will be arduous. The six-month timetable suggested by Mr Carlsson looks unrealistic, although both sides still hope the European Economic Space can come into being on schedule on 1 January, 1993.

Efta, promising to speak with one voice throughout, will be led by the Swiss, who take over the presidency on July 1. They have taken the hardest line on accepting community legislation, and originally wanted a long list of exceptions. Efta has narrowed these to about 10 headings, to protect individual countries' vital interests. Iceland, for example, can never accept freedom of labour, or Switzerland freedom of outsiders to buy Swiss property.

But the Swiss have per-

suaded their partners that a final position on accepting EC law — the *acquis communautaire* — depends on a satisfactory solution to the management and development of Economic Space legislation. If negotiations bog down, the pressures on Efta members will grow. Austria has already applied for community membership and Norway and Sweden may follow. Mr Carlsson suggested in Gothenburg that obstacles to Swedish membership, such as the security situation in Europe, were crumbling.

The Economic Space, brainchild of Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, is seen by many diplomats as only an initial stage on the road to full EC membership for most Efta members. This was, in fact, the inspiration behind the founding of Efta. Britain and the other six original members — Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland — were alarmed at the challenge posed by the Treaty of Rome and banded together in loose self-protection. They aimed to remove all tariffs on industrial goods (achieved in 1966), but not to include the vexed issue of agriculture.

The Convention of Stockholm was signed in 1960. Efta had none of the dynamism of the EEC, and Britain was disproportionately dominant politically and economically. It sought to leave almost upon joining, and when Britain, Denmark and Norway opened negotiations with Brussels, signing treaties of accession in 1972, Efta seemed finished. It was saved by politics.

Norway's rejection in a referendum of EC membership gave the association continued life. Iceland had already joined and Finland became an associate. The Swiss and Swedes, out of chosen neutrality, could not join the EC, and Portugal's political system made it unacceptable to the EC.

Efta was from the start, and remains, the EC's largest trading partner. Community goods and services accounted last year for almost 60 per cent of Efta imports and almost 30 per cent of EC exports. Efta exports to the EC increased by over 6 per cent last year.

Despite its lack of central authority, Efta also negotiated a trade agreement with Spain in 1979 (abolished in 1986), and with Yugoslavia in 1983. All Efta members are part of the Group of 24 nations aiding Eastern Europe. And on Wednesday the association signed three landmark declarations with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, promising to step up trade and cooperation. In each case the preamble, linking economic help to political pluralism and market economies, is identical to agreements the three have signed with Brussels.

Salvador pursues ceasefire

By MICHAEL KNIFE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE government's pledge in El Salvador to reach a ceasefire agreement with left-wing rebels by September will not be shaken by guerrilla attacks this week. Ernesto Aitzschul, a senior minister in the government of President Cristiani, said in London yesterday.

Urban guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí Liberation Front attacked army positions in San Salvador on Wednesday while battles in the east of the country left 11 dead and two wounded.

A new round of peace talks is scheduled to begin in Mexico City next Tuesday. Alvaro de Soto, a personal representative of Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the United Nations secretary-general, will mediate.

Señor Aitzschul, a vice-minister with responsibility for co-ordinating intelligence, said agreement on a time frame and an agenda for peace negotiations with the front had been agreed in Caracas last month, and the target for implementing the ceasefire agreement was September.

The second phase would be to establish guarantees and verification procedures that would enable the rebels to transform themselves into a political entity. It was likely that this would be supervised by the United Nations. Elections were scheduled for March 1991, he said.

Dr Castro counters by showing off his model workers, known as the *Bras Roca*

contingent, "examples of what socialism is capable of, and what moral awareness can do". According to Dr Castro, three 4,000 elite troops work on average 13 hours a day.

What the president does not emphasise is the material incentives provided to these "vanguard" workers: wages three times the national average, air-conditioned dining halls and better food.

Three decades of socialism also reflect a Cuba of contradictions. Rural development has meant almost total abandonment of Havana, home to 20 per cent of Cuba's 10.5 million population. In old Havana many Cubans have reacted by creating a black market economy — buying dollars from visiting foreigners, and finding a way into tourist-only stores.

"Germans of capitalism", according to officials, these outcasts roam the Malecón, the avenue hugging Havana's coastline. Alain says he has spent half of his 20 years in the business, first trading sea

shells with the Russians and now purchasing tourist dollars in order to obtain Western goods which he then sells on the black market.

Even more dangerous to the regime is the discontent breeding among the middle class of bureaucrats. "I am in debt to the state," said Zenobio González León, a state official.

"But my daughter does not think like me."

Señor González's advice to "first produce, then consume" is lost on those Cubans who wait in long queues for ice-cream and cheese pizza and who see that privileges exist for a few: the policemen with extra subsidies, the 25,000 foreign students given free education, the 10,000 Chernobyl children invited to recover here.

The promotion of tourism

is not that we resent the tourists," said Raimundo, aged 24, a computer technician. "On that we all think alike," Raimundo said.

The trouble is that many of the 60 per cent of Cubans born after the revolution now take the services for granted. Instead, they clamour for consumption. The youngest ask for chewing gum and ballpoint pens; teenagers want Western clothing. Workers, too, are no longer satisfied with just "moral incentives". Government figures place absenteeism at 12 per cent, with some areas as high as 19 per cent.

Dr Castro counters by

World Cup tourist boom flops in Italian desert of 'dry' trattorias

From PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

THE Etruscan Museum in Rome is quieter than it ever usually is in June. The man in the box office lazily tears off a ticket for a solitary German visitor. "Not many visitors this year," he says. "They are staying away because of the Mondiale, because they are afraid of finding inflated prices, packed hotels, hooligans and traffic jams."

But surely thousands of football fans are taking in Etruscan art between matches, as the World Cup organisers assured us they would? "Come off it," he snorts. "The only visitors who looked anything like football supporters were three Austrians a week ago."

The idea of using the World Cup to boost tourism in Italy, to show off its artistic and historical treasures to the rest

of the world, has so far backfired badly. According to the Italian Tourist Authority, fewer than half the expected World Cup visitors have shown up, but in turn they have kept away a much greater number of ordinary tourists. Rather than being taken by storm at the hands of rapt art lovers, Italy's museums, churches and monuments are being ignored.

With grim optimism, the Tourist Authority spokesman said: "We expect a long-term effect on Italy's image for the future." Giovanni Colombo, president of the Hotels Association, complained: "We are certainly not full up because of the Mondiale. And this year the normal tourists have stayed away. You can get a hotel room very easily these days, which is unheard of for

June." Two years ago the Ministry of Tourism forecast that the World Cup would attract eight million extra "presences", or nights spent in Italy, by foreign tourists. That estimate has recently shrunk to three million which, according to the Hotels Association, is still optimistic and has been more than offset by a drop in traditional tourism. The Tourist Authority says that by mid-June only about 100,000 people had come for the World Cup.

Tommaso Tanzilli, of the Rome Hotels Association, says that the worst effects of the Mondiale are being felt in Rome, Florence, and Venice.

"Sure, a few thousand people have come for the football, but they have kept away a lot of regular clients who are much better quality customers than

Giulio Bendandi, the proprietor of the Isola Del Sole, a fashionable restaurant on a pontoon on the Tiber, says: "I closed, not so much in protest but simply because none of my clients would want to have dinner with water."

Ironically, one of the Mondiale sponsors is a consortium of producers called "Vini Italia", who paid millions to promote their wines through the World Cup. But many trattorias are adapting in the finest Italian style: regular customers get their usual half-litre of Frascati in a mineral-water bottle.



Slow coach: A driver takes a nap in Rome as he waits for tourist customers to turn up



Like father, like son: The boys of volunteer firemen in the Carinthian village resort of Krumpendorf in Austria yesterday donned the appropriate uniform for weekend celebrations to mark the 110th anniversary of the local fire brigade

Six more guerrilla fugitives arrested

From ANNE MCELVOY
IN EAST BERLIN

SIX more suspected terrorists, including three on the West German police's most wanted list, have been arrested in East Germany in an unprecedented catch of Red Army Faction activists. Nine fugitives have now been unearthed living under assumed identities in the country where the shaken population is being confronted with the murkiest chapter in the history of the communist state.

Herr-Ludwig Meyer, his wife Barbara Meyer, and Wolfgang Grams, three of the most prominent Red Army activists sought by police, were arrested yesterday at Leipzig station, apparently after being recognised by fellow-passengers.

Herr Meyer, aged 37, is thought to have been one of the ringleaders of the Faction during its time in the mid-1970s and is wanted for the assassination of Kari-Heinz Beckerts, a director of the electronics firm Siemens, together with his driver.

The couple are also suspected of involvement in the murder of the Dresdner Bank chief, Jürgen Ponto, and the assassination of the director of the employers' federation, Hans-Martin Schleier. His wife, aged 34, is wanted for robbery and an attempted bombing. Werner Lotze, Ekkehard von Seckendorff, and Monika Hebeling, all of whom are thought to be RAF activists, were arrested on Thursday night in their homes near the Polish border.

Herr Lotze's wife, Christine Dümlein, was released yesterday after the West German authorities confirmed that the warrant for her arrest had expired a year ago.

The arrests follow those of Susanne Albrecht and Inge Viett, probably after denunciations by former Stasi handlers. The East German interior minister, Peter Diestel, confirming the arrests said that the second state of discoveries had not come from within the ranks of the Stasi but due to the "higher awareness" in the minds of the public and police in the East.

The East German authorities are now attempting to secure extradition in the next week, but a lawyer has objected that this is inadmissible due to the lack of legal ties between the two countries. It is just possible that the accused will be held in East Germany until unification.

Castro aims to buy off discontent

From MICHAEL LLANOS IN HAVANA

LIKE parents whose children take them for granted, President Castro of Cuba and his one-party socialist government have entered mid-life crisis. Young people are more concerned about free health services and workers are driven more by high wages than by socialist doctrine.

Unable to curb the expectations of Cubans, Dr Castro is trying to keep one step ahead by reaching out to youth and providing material incentives to some workers. The unanswered question is how far he is willing to go, in accommodating demands which so far are economic but have the potential to become political.

For three decades, Cuba's centralised planning has given priority to education, rural development and health. So set are the priorities that a director of Cuba's leading hospital said with pride that "it is easier to get a heart transplant than an ice-cold glass of water".

The trouble is that many of the 60 per cent of Cubans born after the revolution now take the services for granted. Instead, they clamour for consumption. The youngest ask for chewing gum and ballpoint pens; teenagers want Western clothing. Workers, too, are no longer satisfied with just "moral incentives".

Government figures place absenteeism at 12 per cent, with some areas as high as 19 per cent.

Dr Castro counters by showing off his model workers, known as the *Bras Roca*

contingent, "examples of what socialism is capable of, and what moral awareness can do". According to Dr Castro, three 4,000 elite troops work on average 13 hours a day.

What the president does not emphasise is the material incentives provided to these "vanguard" workers: wages three times the national average, air-conditioned dining halls and better food.

Three decades of socialism also reflect a Cuba of contradictions. Rural development has meant almost total abandonment of Havana, home to 20 per cent of Cuba's 10.5 million population. In old Havana many Cubans have reacted by creating a black market economy — buying dollars from visiting foreigners, and finding a way into tourist-only stores.

"Germans of capitalism", according to officials, these outcasts roam the Malecón, the avenue hugging Havana's coastline. Alain says he has spent half of his 20 years in the business, first trading sea

shells with the Russians and now purchasing tourist dollars in order to obtain Western goods which he then sells on the black market.

Even more dangerous to the regime is the discontent breeding among the middle class of bureaucrats. "I am in debt to the state," said Zenobio González León, a state official.

"But my daughter does not think like me."

Señor González's advice to "first produce, then consume" is lost on those Cubans who wait in long queues for ice-cream and cheese pizza and who see that privileges exist for a few: the policemen with extra subsidies, the 25,000 foreign students given free education, the 10,000 Chernobyl children invited to recover here.

The promotion of tourism

is not that we resent the tourists," said Raimundo, aged 24, a computer technician. "On that we all think alike," Raimundo said.

Uncover your sexier side... (why keep it hidden?)

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SPECIAL REPORT Is class a thing of the past?

Do you take sustenance? I do... don't you?

JUNE 1990 VOL 2 NO 1

OUT NOW

New Woman. You can't be one without it.

The liberal pressgang

Clifford Longley

Few substances have such powerful emotional and ritual associations as blood, the sign of life itself. At the end of the third chapter of Leviticus, God solemnly commands his people never to let themselves drink blood, a command which throws into a more dramatic light the action of Jesus at the Last Supper, when he poured wine for his disciples and told them "Drink all of you from this, for this is my blood..."

A society which has grown indifferent to the power of blood, shows itself indifferent to one of the most potent symbols of all. When that indifference is so assured that other people's deepest taboos are treated as little short of madness, a profound ugliness has crept in.

The word for it is bigotry. When a family of Jehovah's Witnesses is forced to flee abroad rather than allow a child to be subjected to a blood transfusion, a practice utterly forbidden by the tenets of their faith on the basis of the prohibition in Leviticus, Britain is caught in the act of blatant religious persecution.

Majorities convinced they are right are immensely dangerous; in this case the majority has, through the courts and the child protection laws, given itself the right to overrule the rights of a parent on a point of conscientious conviction.

It is the majority's view that the point of conviction is not important, or not so important that it counts for very much. So a court may step in, declare the parents' conviction unreasonable, and replace them as parents, in effect, by its own so reasonable self.

But all religious convictions are in principle unreasonable, and so are many other cherished beliefs on which people are prepared to base their lives. Nobody, unless he is prepared to adopt for himself only those beliefs and practices which are supported by the majority, is safe from such bullying. For the real test is not reasonableness, but the opinion, reasonable or not, of the majority. One of the lessons of the controversy over *The Satanic Verses* is that majorities can be just as unreasonably intolerant as fundamentalists. Indeed, we have had to learn to speak of liberal or secular fundamentalism. Majorities pose as tolerant until they are challenged, then their bigotry is revealed.

Britain has yet to learn to live with a multicultural society. So far it has largely been assumed that the tolerance this demands will be begrimed only by a small minority, the obvious racists. This is a misleading both of the nature of tolerance and of the real implications of multiculturalism. Many of those who think they easily accept outside groups have not begun to think about the inevitable challenge to their own perceptions of right and justice.

Thus Asian immigrants must not be discriminated against or

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Marcus Lipton was for many years the MP (Labour) for Brixton. He was widely liked and respected. To many, he seems to have been an MP for so long that it was hard to believe he would ever go. But, one day, by then an old man, he decided it was time to call it a day.

"What made you quit, Marcus?" a friend asked.

It was like this, he said: he had been in a pub in Brixton, enjoying a quiet pint, alone. At a table next to him, two old boys were sharing a drink, and discussing the woes of the modern world. War, famine, miseries...

"Ah," said one to the other, "it would never have happened when Marcus Lipton was alive."

He came to mind, recently as I watched the Nazi war crimes debate in the House of Lords. One of the most telling speeches was made by a peer whom the television monitor labelled "Lord Shawcross".

"Not Hartley Shawcross?" I thought. Sir Hartley Shawcross was a famous Labour politician 40 years ago. He was our chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials after the second world war. But surely he had been, well, how to put it politely? — I cannot put it politely — dead, for decades, now?

No. Not only is Lord Shawcross entirely alive, he was standing in the Upper House making one of the most lucid speeches that their lordships were privileged to hear.

In private company recently John Birt, deputy director-general of the BBC, observed that the appearance of someone's newspaper obituary often shocks us not so much by news of the death, as by the intimation that, until moments ago, the fellow was still alive. One had supposed him long departed. What a shame, said Mr Birt, that, by definition, this news reaches us too late to celebrate the deceased's recent longevity. *The Times*, he proposed, should run a "Non-Obit" column, featuring the information — whenever it might prove surprising — that an individual is still with us.

I suggested that there was a long-running BBC series in this "Not Dead Yet" with Simon Jimmy Carter?" present. "Richard Nixon?" Gerald Ford?" present. "Marlene Dietrich?" Ida Lupino? Joan Fontaine? Ian Smith? Sir Len Hutton? Leopoldo Galtieri? Cliff Richard..."

Fifty years on, Douglas Johnson considers the mystique of de Gaulle, patriot and liberator

Triumph of the unknown warrior

General de Gaulle is a legend. The legend began on June 18, 1940, after the fall of France. The day before saw his arrival in London as an unknown and junior French general with only two suitcases. He was accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Geoffrey de Courcel, who had been lent the keys to a small three-room flat in Seymour Place, Marylebone. He was a general without an army, without fame and without money. He had held the post of under-secretary of state for war for just 12 days, and this was the sum of his ministerial experience.

An obstinate man, he soon gained a reputation for being uncooperative. His pride could be taken for arrogance; his authoritarian manner led to accusations of dictatorship; his assumption that he spoke for France seemed pure fantasy. He repeatedly gave offence to the powerful, notably Churchill and President Roosevelt. His own organisation was riddled with intrigue. Yet it was de Gaulle who strode down the Champs Elysées when Paris was liberated in August 1944 and who went on to dominate French

national life for a quarter of a century. His legend can be compared only to those of Joan of Arc and Napoleon.

The beginning of the legend is the celebrated broadcast from London of June 18, 1940, and it contains the essential ingredient of all legends, mystery. No one today knows exactly when the short speech was delivered; no one has ever known how many people in France heard it. But it was heard. A few newspapers referred to it the next day, and Pétain's ministers began to attack de Gaulle and to point out that he no longer had any ministerial responsibilities.

The mystery grew. Who was this rebellious general and what was he doing in London? He had proclaimed that France was not alone. He had also pronounced the word "resistance". He was the leader of people who called themselves Free French.

The magic of the disembodied voice on the wireless increased with further broadcasts. The romanticism that surrounds an exile was emphasised by the manner in which he was presented. "Honneur et patrie, le Général de Gaulle vous parle."

That few knew what he looked like contributed to the legend. (When the writer André Malraux met de Gaulle during the liberation, he was surprised by how tall he was.) German and Vichy-controlled radio stations contributed to the legend by refusing to refer to Free France, and instead speaking only about Gaullists, so focusing attention on one man.

The same thing was happening in London, sometimes as a result of misunderstandings. Churchill at first exaggerated de Gaulle's importance, and at one point, before the campaign in France was over, he told the War Cabinet that the young general might assume command of the French army, which was never a possibility. He also believed that de Gaulle would be followed to London by a significant number of important Frenchmen. It was some time before it was clear that de Gaulle was alone.

Most important of all was the confusion surrounding Pétain and his government, which was the official government of France and recognised as such by the Americans. How would it evolve, and what understanding with it could be reached? In these circumstances, Churchill refused to recognise Free France as a symbol of the ungentlemanly manoeuvre of inviting him to a private dinner at the Travellers' Club and then circulating an account of his conversation as an official cabinet paper.

But it cannot be said that the British invented de Gaulle, despite contributing powerfully to his creation. He became a symbol because, with his cross of Lorraine, he was determined to be one. In 1940, all the traits of Gaulism were already present: the passionate patriotism, the solitary exercise of power, the magic of the word (both spoken and written), the appeal to a wide variety of ordinary French people, the determination at once to conceal and to compensate for the weaknesses of France.

The British wanted to know who he was and what his politics were. When de Gaulle's old associate Gaston Palewski met Sir Orme Sargent of the Foreign Office in September 1940, and congratulated the British on their good fortune in having de Gaulle among them, Sargent interrupted: "At last, someone who knows. Tell

me, who is General de Gaulle?" The desire to know more even led to the ungentlemanly manoeuvre of inviting him to a private dinner at the Travellers' Club and then circulating an account of his conversation as an official cabinet paper.

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Not long before his death he wrote to one of his old companions. Free France, he said, was the finest thing we ever did. At the end of a remarkable life, it was June 1940, in London, that de Gaulle saw as his greatest moment.

The author is professor of French history at University College London.

Required daily reading for a grand old man of letters

Richard Mullen recounts Trollope's devotion to *The Times* — factual inspiration of his best-known novels

For the Englishman, Anthony Trollope wrote in the 1850s, "Tea, Toast and *Times* are sufficient." Today, like everyone else, writers are bombarded with news, but for those living at the height of the Victorian era, there was only one daily dose of fact: *The Times* dominated public opinion in a way that has never been equalled.

Throughout the middle decades of the 19th century, when Trollope joined the ranks of famous novelists, he never wavered from "his duty as an Englishman" to read *The Times*. Yet he was never an uncritical reader.

In the first of his Barsetshire novels, *The Warden*, Trollope attacks *The Times*, in the guise of "The Jupiter". From his "Vatican of England" came "infallible laws which cabinets are called upon to obey, by which bishops are to be guided, lords and commons controlled, judges instructed in law, generals in strategy, admirals in naval tactics, and orange-women in the managements of their barrows."

Ironically, the paper played a large role in Trollope's writing of the novel. One night, he said, while wandering "round the purples of the cathedral, I conceived the story of *The Warden*, from whence came that series of novels... with its bishops, deans, and archdeacon". The sight of moonlit Salisbury may have inspired his most famous novels, but it was his reading of *The Times* that gave him the factual background.

Throughout 1852, within months of Trollope's visit to Salisbury, *The Times* was filled with clerical controversies. One concerned a dispute between the Rev Robert Whiston, headmaster of Rochester Cathedral Grammar School, and the cathedral's dean and canons. The argument began over the location of a stove, but in time-honoured clerical fashion, it developed into a passionate dispute about the rights of cathedral clergy. *The Times* championed Whiston and carried many letters, articles, and lengthy documents.

Trollope's criticisms of *The Times* in *The Warden* and in his unpublished survey of English society were based on his fears (shared by Queen Victoria) about the virtual monopoly of the news held by one paper. There was a popular joke in the 1850s: "What is the difference between the Tsar and *The Times*?... One is the type of despotism and the other, the despotism of type." A version of this appears in *The Warden* when Archdeacon Grantly comments: "What is the Tsar is in Russia or the mob in America, the Jupiter is in England."

The Times was, however, remarkably generous in its reviews of *The Warden* and its sequel, *Barchester Towers*, although it did caution Trollope against his "tendency to caricature", particularly in his account of "The Jupiter".

and its principal writer, Tom Towers. Years later, Trollope, now friendly with the editor of *The Times*, John Delane, denied that he had intended a portrayal of the individual. Delane and Trollope had many views in common, most notably fear of the increase in commercial dishonesty, and leaders in *The Times* influenced Trollope's powerful tirade against financial corruption in *The Warden*. We Live Now.

Trollope continued his daily devotion to the paper even when he was sent on long overseas journeys for the Post Office. In January 1859 he was in the West Indies when he read a series of letters in *The Times* about a newly fashionable way of entertaining.

Service à la Russe demanded a complicated series of courses



served by numerous footmen. The upper middle classes, what Trollope called "us second-class gentry with our £800 a year", tried to ape the fashion by having pretentious meals provided by caterers — "Messrs Stewman and Sugarscraps", Trollope called them. Almost all of Trollope's novels of the 1860s attack the pretentious new mode of dining as both a cause and a symbol of corruption.

Earlier, he had found another symbol of corruption when *The Times* carried numerous articles about the dangerous things grocers added to coffee. This became a sort of "mad cow" scare, and many of Trollope's novels refer to the adulteration of coffee: "Waiter, ask them from me," says one character, "whether they know how to make coffee. It does

Majestic confidence

With law and order in danger of breaking down on the streets of Bucharest amid the worst violence since the overthrow of Nicolae Ceausescu, the switchboard of the Romanian Embassy in London was jammed on Thursday with concerned enquiries for up-to-date information. All went unanswered, including those by Edwin Currie, an official observer of the recent elections, who demanded to speak to the ambassador. When eventually revealed, the reason for the diplomatic silence left even Mrs Currie momentarily lost for words. "A cockayne security guard told me all the officials were out, celebrating our Queen's official birthday. What stiff upper lip — having a good time while there are rumours of an imminent coup. I admire the ambassador and his wife even more."

Anyone expecting a traditional medieval joust is in for a shock.

Six choreographers have been brought in to instruct the cast in Japanese, African, Brazilian, Indian and Javanese styles of fighting, for a truly multicultural mêlée. "The story of Arthur and his knights is a great world myth," says Freeman. "To depict it merely as British history would not do it justice."

The play, encompassing the whole Arthurian cycle, will be performed in a seven-hour marathon, including a dinner break and 15-minute walks to and from St Paul's. On Wednesday next week, 500 schoolchildren will attend a rehearsal to test crowd and traffic-control. Gareth Jones, senior inspector at Hammersmith police station, says: "It is a brave venture with a dramatic point. The women do not have the same tendency to be violent or nastily aggressive, but they do not

one day the magazine will be privatised and freed from the control of *Pravda* — which tolerates its irreverence because of the troubles it puts in.

Optimistic about the future of Russian satire, he says: "I don't see why we cannot have *Spitting Image* on Soviet television now. Even under perestroika our television is too conservative." But is Gorbachev ready for such cruel satire? "We will have to train him." If Mrs Thatcher can take it, so can he. If leaders have no sense of humour, they become dangerous."

Out of court

At the annual Wimbledon fortnight of bad temper and overpriced strawberries is almost upon us. But while John McEnroe and Pat Cash have given the men's game a bad name with their churlish antics, the women at least continue the best traditions of gentility and good sportsmanship.

Or do they? Not according to David Johnson, a former umpire who has retired after sitting in the chair for some 360 matches over 30 years. Despite the men's reputation, "I learned more swearwords from the ladies," he tells Carol Thatcher in an interview in next month's issue of *The Field*. But the swearing ladies are far cleverer than the men. They avoid trouble, Johnson reveals, by directing their obscenities away from the umpire and uttering them *sotto voce*. "The women do not belong to the school of thought that they will play better if there's a bit of acrimony about." Thatcher concludes: "Women do not have the same tendency to be violent or nastily aggressive, but they do not



as the 500-strong audience trooped out of the theatre and across the High Street before proceeding by subway to St Paul's church for the fight scenes, which are too large and extravagant for the small

July 16 1990



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CHARTER FOR PENURY

The European Commission's first attempt to put legal teeth into the Social Charter deserves to fail on grounds both of substance and of law. If adopted, the three directives bringing the working conditions of part-time and temporary employees into line with those of the permanent workforce, brought forward this week by Vassos Papandreu, the EC social affairs commissioner, would reinforce the barriers against those seeking to enter, or re-enter, the formal labour market. They would put at risk many of the 14 million part-time and 10 million temporary jobs in the EC, six million of them in Britain.

The most significant of these directives on "Atypical Work" would oblige employers to contribute to social security payments for all employees working more than eight hours a week. In Britain, that would affect some 2.5 million people. The other two directives would entitle part-time and temporary employees to training, holidays and redundancy payments on the same basis as permanent staff, and force employers to give them permanent contracts after a limited period.

To get round the EC rule that regulations dealing with working conditions and social security must be unanimously agreed, Mrs Papandreu has introduced two of these directives, including that covering social security, as part of "competition" policy, and therefore subject only to qualified majority approval. Her contention that differences between the benefits offered part-time workers in different EC states distorts competition is unfounded. Both West German commissioners have joined Sir Leon Brittan, the commissioner responsible for competition policy, in dismissing her argument as a political ruse to avoid a veto. If the directives are passed, Britain should take the commission to the European Court. Support should be sought from West Germany, where the costs of such legislation would, in the context of reunification, be politically and economically untenable.

Such a legally dubious manoeuvre justifies the government's refusal to join the other 11 in adopting the Social Charter last December. Those who argued that Britain should make no difficulties over a charter which had no legal force conveniently ignored the use the commission might make of the charter's preambular link between social rights and the creation of the EC single market to put subsequent legislation to majority vote. These

directives are a test case for the right of Brussels to impose social regulation. If they go through by majority vote, so will most of the EC's "social action programme" comprising some 43 community "instruments", 17 of them legally binding between now and 1993.

Advocates of the Social Charter maintain that EC-wide labour legislation is required for two main reasons. The first is to give a "social dimension" of enhanced workers' rights to post-1992 Europe. There is nothing wrong with exploring the scope for acceptable common working conditions, provided that the most important "social dimension", reducing unemployment, is not thereby jeopardised. This week's directives fail that test.

The second is to avoid "social dumping", an unlovely piece of jargon describing the presumed tendency of capital to migrate to low-wage economies. If workers are not to be forced to take cuts in pay or conditions, the commission argues, the free movement of people, goods and investment must take place over a "level playing field".

Technology and changing production methods have made such calculations obsolete. Companies now calculate the "unit costs" of labour according to skills and productivity as well as pay packets. High wages may be compensated by high productivity. Ostensibly benevolent regulations which levelled out wages and conditions would penalise countries and regions, such as Portugal (and, to a lesser extent, Britain), with less educated and less productive work forces than, say, West Germany's.

People already on the margins of the labour market will lose everywhere. These directives will hinder the growth in part-time and temporary employment which Europe's demographic trends make it vital to encourage. More than legal or procedural rearguard defences will be needed. Mrs Papandreu should go back to the drawing board, returning with proposals to cut unemployment by reducing labour market rigidities.

The need is for more, not less, labour mobility. Flexibility, not homogeneity, should be the commission's watchword. The "social action programme", with its emphasis on "fair wages" and regulation, is a charter for unemployment and, for those in work, loss of competitiveness on world markets. That cannot be the "social dimension" the Community seeks, nor the field on which Europe's workers should be condemned to play.

THE GRADUATE BEAT

The home secretary, David Waddington, in an interview with *The Times* yesterday, criticised the idea of an officer cadre for the police force. He opposed, he said, "the sudden introduction of the concept of popping people from outside into senior ranks". His dismissal reflects the prejudice among the police themselves. The proposal, the subject of recent correspondence in this newspaper, deserves more serious Home Office attention.

The objective of the scheme would be to raise the quality of police leadership. While there are some fine high-ranking officers who command great respect, disquiet persists about the general standard of senior management. Cases such as those involving the Guildford Four and the West Midlands serious crimes squad have shaken public confidence.

The traditional means of advancement has been to join as a constable on the beat, and work through the ranks towards the top. This produces senior officers who embody not only the admirable strengths of their profession but also its self-perpetuating faults. While the route through the ranks should be safeguarded, other paths of advancement should also be explored. The police would benefit from a larger injection of high-fliers, marked for rapid promotion. This might broaden the range of experience in senior management and should also raise the standard of recruits.

The present system discourages the most ambitious graduate from joining or, more important still, from staying in the force. The number of graduate policemen has increased from fewer than 200 in the late 1960s to more than 6,600 two years ago. But the graduate wastage rate is double that for non-graduates.

While a degree is no magic formula, it suggests an appropriate level of knowledge and

intelligence for today's police. The armed forces recognised some time ago the need to recruit from universities and sixth forms, and to accelerate graduates' progress through cadet school. The police should now consider following suit.

The term "officer class" is unfortunate and unfair. It revives memories of the days when chief constables were retired colonels or landed gentry. In an age of high technology and professionalism such social implications would be ludicrous.

Comparisons with the army can be misleading. The police constable cannot be treated as a soldier. The latter is taught to obey every command and usually operates as one man in a unit. The police officer enjoys greater independence and has to take instant decisions on his own. The idea of bringing army officers into the police, switching from their diminishing role along the Rhine, should be treated with caution. They would have to be carefully selected and retrained. Despite such reservations, the Home Office should reconsider the case for alternative methods of recruiting, and for a national training college, on Sandhurst lines, based on competitive selection. Late entrants from other professions should also be encouraged.

More teenage boys and girls in colleges or sixth forms – and from all classes, creeds and ethnic backgrounds – should be tempted by a career in the police as they might be by medicine, industry or teaching. The way to do that is to raise their expectations beyond the levels of "the old Bill" or Dixon of Dock Green. To combat highly mobile criminals and sophisticated international crime networks, the police need to widen their own professional horizons.

PRINCES AMONG FROGS

What has John Gummer, agriculture minister, scourge of those who will not believe that British beef is best, or at any rate not fatal if eaten, in common with Tam Dalyell, scourge of everybody and everything? The answer may be surprising: they are both passionately fond of frogs.

Before they are both torn in pieces for their cruelty in eating the merry little green fellows, it should be added that no morsel of even a single one has ever passed the lips of either politician. When they say they love frogs, they mean the living frog, in all his happiness and splashing.

This news might have gone unrecorded for ever, even by the two frog-loving MPs, had not Mr Dalyell, who breeds them (though they apparently need no instruction) written to the minister, urging him to declare frog-ponds areas of conservation. Mr Dalyell is concerned about the frogs' falling numbers, and fears that ultimately the species will die out. His anxiety is supported by evidence: scientists who have made the study of frogs their work calculate that Britain has lost some two million frogs since 1960. The trouble is that ponds are being neglected; hence Mr Dalyell's appeal. It did not fall on deaf ears, for Mr Gummer wrote back to say that he had the welfare of Britain's frogs at heart, and would urge respect and care for the little fellows.

Their lineage is ancient; scientists say that they existed in prehistoric times. The Romans took an interest in them, and the Greeks too: Aristophanes wrote a play called *The Frogs*, in which he managed a remarkably convincing transliteration of the sound they make: *Brek-*

ek-ek-ex-ko-ax-ko-ax (stress the fourth, sixth and eighth syllables). In many cultures, they have been venerated, as higher beings transformed, whence come all the fairy stories in which the frog turns into a handsome prince.

The British, happily, have never taken to eating them, indeed, a derogatory term for a Frenchman is a "frog-eater", abbreviated to "frog" alone. (It has to be admitted, though Mr Gummer and Mr Dalyell will be pained, that one reason this country does not make a delicacy of frogs is that they are much too finicky for British eaters, who mostly cannot be bothered with them because it is only the legs that are eaten anyway).

They are not, alas, vegetarian: that lightning tongue is always on the lookout for passing flies (worms, too, say the experts). Notably, the witches in *Macbeth*, when they came to the frog for their horrid stew, wanted only the toe. There are some people who cannot abide them, saying they are clammy; perhaps, but the same might be said of a chamois-leather washcloth (which does have a remarkable semblance to the skin of a frog). There is even a hairy-coated one, called *Trichobatrachus robustus*.

They are well-known for demonstrating biology to young children. Spawning in tadpole excites little comment, but when the legs appear interest begins to rise, until, in the final stage of the frog's life-cycle, a real Jeremy Fisher goes hopping off. But who would have thought that the innocent frog would unite the warring political factions? Bipartisanship was never common; it is rarer than ever today, and both Mr Gummer and Mr Dalyell are to be congratulated. *Brek-ek-ex-ko-ax-ko-ax*.

Labour's dealings with the unions

From the Secretary of State for Employment

Sir, Clifford Longley's analysis (June 13) of my recent exchange of letters with Tony Blair in *The Times* (June 2, 11) quite rightly points to Mr Blair's admission that Labour would bring back secondary strikes and secondary pickets as the key weakness in his policy proposals.

The current Employment Bill will make unlawful the sort of secondary action which the TGWU threatened to take against the proposed Ford plant at Dundee in 1988. This cost Britain over a thousand jobs and hundreds of millions of pounds of investment. Tony Blair has confirmed that Labour would make such sensible and destructive actions wholly lawful.

But Labour would also inhibit

the power of the courts to deal with acts which they would purport to make unlawful. In two crucial respects they would give

trade unions unique immunities.

First, they would truncate the ability of the courts to make *ex parte* injunctions against trade unions. At the moment, employers can only get such an injunction if they have taken every reasonable step to draw the hearing to the attention of the union. But the ability to obtain an injunction, once such steps have been taken, is frequently crucial in preventing unlawful industrial action before it has caused any real damage.

Labour's policy document

describes this procedure as "un-

fair" and says in terms that they would end it. This can only mean that wrongs will not be able to be righted without delay, contrary to Clifford Longley's suggestion.

Secondly, they would restrict the ability of the courts to order sequestration of a trade union's assets if it acted in contempt of court. Tony Blair defends this proposal on the grounds that unions should not be impeded by any court penalty from carrying on their lawful business.

This is a bizarre proposition, analogous to the idea that the courts should not be able to jail a burglar because to do so would remove his right to conduct a lawful walk in the park. If unions wish to be sure that they will be allowed to carry on their lawful business, all they have to do is to obey the law.

It is also quite disingenuous of

Tony Blair to suggest that fines for contempt are a "more savage penalty" than sequestration. He must know perfectly well that without sequestration fines cannot be enforced.

Labour's policies can no longer be judged from the headlines as they could last year when John Prescott promised to repeal all our legislation. Now it is the small print which provides the real guide.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL HOWARD,
Department of Employment,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street, SW1.
June 14.

Naming the train

From Miss Elaine Fullard

Sir, Your readers' suggestions for naming the Channel train (May 28, June 4, 6, 7, 13) are becoming more and more intriguing. How about a publication of them to celebrate the eventual launch or, better still, naming each individual carriage with different names?

Yours faithfully,

ELAINE FULLARD,
36 Harpes Road, Oxford.

From Mrs B. M. Morrison

Sir, One wonders if Dr Jessiman (June 6) has been dipping into the Romantics: "the (train)bow comes and goes", the (train)bow comes and goes, wave in any case, his suggestion leads to other possibilities: the terminus, "where the (train)bow ends, the Weald of Kent, somewhere over the (train)bow".

Yours faithfully,

BETTY MORRISON,
32 Ashfield Lane, Chishehur, Kent.

From Dr A. W. F. Edwards

Sir, Since the train will unite the two sides of the "Sieve" at its narrowest point it will doubtless be called the Cuff Link, whatever its official name.

Yours faithfully,

A. W. F. EDWARDS,
Nickers, High Street, Barton, Cambridge.

From Mr Jefferson C. Grieves

Sir, Dr Burrell (June 6) is wrong in thinking that it was Ariel who volunteered to put a girdle around the earth in 40 minutes: it was Puck – not, surely, a name we want to apply to the Channel train.

If it is to be Shakespeare, what a pity that Macbeth and Othello came to such bad ends; for the one "spurs the late traveller space" and the other has "portance in my travel's history". "The spirit of my travel shall teach me speed" is good, too; but King John did not turn out too well, either.

Yours faithfully,

JEFFERSON C. GRIEVES,
54 Beckingham Road, Guildford, Surrey.

From Ms Judy Box

Sir, How about Zip? It is fast, modern and efficient (although it sometimes jams) and is designed to hold two opposite sides together.

Yours faithfully,

JUDY BAX,
Ciril, Rainfield Road, Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

From Mr B. L. Faux

Sir, Your correspondents are all too starry-eyed! The train is on the threshold of the longest underground journey in the world. The entrance is shrouded in local gloom.

Cerberus, Sir.

Yours etc.,
B. L. FAUX,
9 Cornwallis Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent.

From Ms Judy Box

Sir, Your report of June 9 quotes the Secretary of State for Health, Mr Kenneth Clarke, as saying that "consultants cannot veto opt-outs". This seems to be a strange use of the word veto.

Baroness Hooper, Minister of State for Health, told members of the House of Lords on April 3 (Hansard, column 1257) that in other areas, such as NHS trusts and GP fund-holding practices, the running will be made by enthusiasts and volunteers. There is, I wish to emphasise, no question of anybody being compelled to participate unwillingly.

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thought that the innocent frog would unite the warring political factions? Bipartisanship was never common; it is rarer than ever today, and both Mr Gummer and Mr Dalyell are to be congratulated. *Brek-ek-ex-ko-ax-ko-ax*.

Opting out of NHS

From Mr A. P. J. Ross

Sir, Your report of June 9 quotes the Secretary of State for Health, Mr Kenneth Clarke, as saying that "consultants cannot veto opt-outs". This seems to be a strange use of the word veto.

Consultants do not have an exclusive right of opinion on the issue of hospitals becoming self-governing, but, as far as I am aware, every ballot that has been held so far among other staff groups in hospitals, among the local general practitioners, and among communities served by these hospitals, has produced an overwhelming vote for their local hospital becoming self-governing.

Yours faithfully,
PADDY ROSS (Chairman,
Central Consultants and
Specialised Committee),
British Medical Association,
Tavistock Square, WC1.

June 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry

a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – (071) 782 5046.

11

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Implications of abortion changes

From the Roman Catholic Bishop of Middlesbrough

the House of Commons at the report stage of the bill.

Yours faithfully,

FAGUSTINE HARRIS
(Chairman, Department for Christian Responsibility and Citizenship, Roman Catholic Hierarchy of England and Wales),
Bishop's House,
16 Cambridge Road,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

From Mr Simon Neale

Sir, The Bishop of Gloucester asserts (June 11) that the Church of England's position is that abortion is a "grave moral evil". It is regrettable that he does not clarify the position he (and the Church) would ideally wish of society to take. His argument for a reduction in the legal limit to 24 weeks does not appear to be based on the premise that this limit is less "evil" or more principled, but rather on the grounds that it "would seem to command widespread support".

Yours faithfully,
SIMON NEALE,
7 Bryanston Street,
Blandford Forum, Dorset.

From Mr Brian Eustace

Sir, In his letter the Bishop of Gloucester fails to match up to his implied promise to speak with a clear voice on abortion. True, he acknowledges that abortion is a grave moral evil, but then he totally clouds the issue by stating that Christians may come to differing judgements on matters of detail.

SATURDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

8.40 Open University: Pure Maths — Circles 7.05 Operational Decisions 8.15 The 8.15 from Manchester. The entertainment programme for the young. Joining Ross King and Charlotte Hinde this week are Michele Holmes, of Coronation Street, and Sue Daveney, of *Spit!* who have formed a pop group called the Dunky Doozers. Plus Del Amitri performing their new single and the new Fuzzbox video.

10.40 Trooping the Colour 1990. Eric Robinson presents live coverage of one of the most spectacular military parades in the world, a ceremony of ageless splendour. The Queen's Colour of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards, of the Guards Division, 12.12 Weather Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line up is (subject to alteration) 12.30 Golf. Coverage of the United States Open from Chicago. Will Curtis Strange make it a hat-trick? Or can the Europeans wipe the smile off his face? 1.00 News: 1.05 Motor Racing. A look ahead to the Le Mans 24-hour race; 1.25 Tennis. With Wimbledon around the corner, the all-important Stella Artois championships provide a good indicator of the grass form of many of the top players; 2.55 Motor Racing. And here it is... the beginning of the Le Mans race; 3.20 Show Jumping. The Royal International Horse Show 4.00 Tennis

5.00 News with Moira Stewart. Weather 5.10 News and sport. Wales: Wales on Saturday. Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster Newsline

6.50 Open University: Maths — Up to the Mark 7.15 Social Problems and Social Welfare 7.40 Rock Polynomials 8.05 Engineering Mechanics — Solids and Fluids 8.30 Spatial Learning and the Hippocampus 8.55 Donegal — Tradition and Change 9.45 Physics — Vibrations of Music 9.45 Exploring Educational Issues — Teachers 10.10 Return to Base 10.35 State and Society — Marshall Aid 11.00 Work and Society 11.25 Thomas Hardy and Wessex 11.50 Statistics — Conflict 12.15 The Structure of Solids 12.40 Plenzi — A Renaissance City 1.05 Science, Technology and Everyday Life — Invasion from Mars 1.30 Modern Art — Monuments 1.55 Systems Discipline — Docklands Light Railway 2.20 Brazil — Fueling the Mind

2.45 Mahabharat. Episode 10 of the 91-part dramatisation of the Indian epic poem. In Hindi with English subtitles

3.25 Film: Charge at Feather River (1933). Guy Madison, Vera Miles and Helen Westcott in a tale of an army platoon going to rescue two women from the Cheyenne Indians. But after five years in captivity one is about to marry a chief and the other refuses to return to civilisation. One of a handful of Westerns originally made in 3-D. It loses something from being shown 'flat' but the photography is outstanding and the action almost non-stop. Directed by Gordon Douglas

5.15 The Flying Doctors: Jack's High. Understanding Australian drama series focusing on a seemingly dangerous profession. Jack is accidentally wounded and is in desperate need of a blood transfusion. Fearless sheep shearers search for the only man who has Jack's rare blood type. 6.00 That's Showbusiness. Light-hearted competition between team captains Kenny Everett and Glenda Hunniford, joined this week by Gordon Kaye, Barbara Windsor, Lionel Blair and Barbara Dickson. Mike Smith asks the relatively easy questions. (Ceefax)

6.30 The Las Dennis Laughter Show. In this week's offering, Las imitates Keith Chegwin and is assisted by Lisa Maxwell and Mark Walker. Martin Dennis again tries to outshine his dad with magic tricks. Special guest is Bella Emberg.

7.00 Takeover Bid. Bruce Forsyth hosts the game show in which the contestants try to steal each other's prizes

7.30 World Cup Grandstand: England v The Netherlands. ● tonight could be the night as far as continuing British interest in the World Cup is concerned, with England meeting the Netherlands in Cagliari and Scotland playing Sweden in Genoa. The 'what-a-load-of-rubbish' reaction to England's draw with the Republic of Ireland on Monday has been tempered by the failure of the Netherlands to defeat the skilful Egyptians. This could mean that the Netherlands are the team we thought them to be, giving England the glimmer of a chance. Or it could mean that England will be pushed to beat even Egypt. Meanwhile Scotland may dramatically raise their game to stand any chance against Sweden, Brazil, who lost only 1-2 to the group favourites, Brazil. The England match is live. Highlights of the Scottish

5.00 International Tennis. Harry Carpenter introduces coverage of this afternoon's semi-finals in the Stella Artois championships from the Queen's Club, London. Among the top names taking part are Ivan Lendl, Stefan Edberg and John McEnroe. Lendl did not compete in the French Open but chose to hone his grass court skills in preparation for a serious assault on that elusive Wimbledon title. Edberg and McEnroe have not, by their standards, played particularly well this year and will be looking for inspiration

7.00 News/View with Moira Stewart and Lynette Lithgow. Weather

7.45 Trooping the Colour. A recording of this morning's spectacular military parade in honour of the Queen's official birthday. This year, the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards have been chosen to troop the Colour, an especially poignant occasion as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. Eric Robinson describes the proceedings

9.00 BBC Design Awards 1990. The original entries for environment, products and graphics, the three categories in this year's competition, have now been reduced to a shortlist of five in each. Muriel Gray and product designer Daniel Weil test public reaction to the designs in Glasgow

9.10 Saturday Night Clyde. The arts magazine from Scotland. This edition includes a look at the Glasgow International Children's Festival and a film essay on the contradictions of

Glasgow, the City of Culture, past and

present. There's also a profile of the Scottish poet-exile Kenneth White, and a visit to Glasgow's Mitchell Library, Europe's largest reference library

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celebrate their 75th anniversary. Eric

Robinson describes the proceedings

9.00 The US Open Golf Championship.

Steve Rider introduces coverage of the US Open in Chicago. Curtis Strange has won the last two championships and will be hoping for a hat-trick, but a strong European challenge should give him a fight. Jose Maria Olazabal is in

great form and Nick Faldo and Seve Ballesteros can never be

discouraged. Ends at 12.35am

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Concern over UK services strength

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MANPOWER shortages in the armed services are becoming so acute that operational commitments may have to be revised, the Commons defence committee said in a report yesterday on the government's defence white paper published in April.

"There must soon come a point when operational commitments will have to be adapted to manpower realities," the committee's report says. "If a battalion, a squadron or a ship falls more than a certain proportion below its establishment it becomes necessary to question whether it can meet its commitment."

The report says the shortfall of trained adults has doubled to 12,342 in the past year, adding: "While we command the Ministry of Defence for its intelligent anticipation of these trends ... that cannot conceal the gravity of the situation."

The RAF is about 6,000 below its required establishment of 89,800. The British Army of the Rhine has fallen from a strength of 57,300 in 1989-90 to 53,400 in 1990-1. The shortfall in the Royal Navy is nearly 1,400.

Despite these figures, there has been a cut in real terms in the recruitment advertising budget for the services, the committee says, adding that it would be disturbed if expensive steps to improve retention of trained personnel were seen as ruling out expenditure on recruitment. "With a steady requirement for new young recruits and growing competition for a diminishing pool of such people, (the ministry) must be cautious about reducing expenditure on recruitment advertising."

The MPs also warn of the effect of inflation on the defence budget. "Past experience does not inspire confidence in recent Treasury inflation forecasts," the report says. "If the current forecasts are exceeded in the same way as forecasts have been for recent years, the defence budget could fall substantially in real terms."

• House of Commons Defence Committee, eighth report, HMSO, £13.25.



Emergency exit: Passengers sliding down chutes from a TWA Tri-Star at Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday after a fire alarm while the aircraft was taxiing into position for take-off. It was later discovered that there had been an explosion caused by a burst pressurised air duct but there was no fire. Nine passengers were slightly hurt during the evacuation. Report, page 6

Communist parties face future dogged by doubt and despair

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

IN THE first of three crucial Communist Party gatherings to be held in the Soviet capital, the Moscow Communist Party yesterday completed two days of preparations for its 28th congress. Next week will see the founding congress of the Russian Federation Communist Party, and the party congress itself will open on July 2, but the tone of Moscow's meeting is likely to be echoed at the others two: confusion mixed with anger mixed with despair.

Yesterday morning, the prime minister, Nikolai Ryzhkov, cut a sorry figure when he delivered a short speech in defence of his ill-fated economic reform programme. Rumours had circulated that President Gorbachev himself was to address the conference, but his indisposition — a slight cold according to his aides — appeared to have extended into a third day and, as with his reform programme, a lugubrious Mr Ryzhkov was left to carry the can.

Among the questions he faced were calls to identify and remove those of his Politburo colleagues responsible for the present state of the country. Unnamed, but clearly identifiable, were Yegor Ligachev — now Secretary for Agriculture — Lev Zairov, Secretary for the Defence Industry, and Vadim Medvedev, described by the Speaker as the "godfather of ideology".

In the park opposite, a small group of women demonstrators held up placards demanding that the party hand over to large families two new, recently requisitioned apartment buildings. "Why did you take over 26 Dimitrov Street without the permission of the local council?" said one. "You have pledged your support for large families, but you take the best housing for party central committee members," said another.

The hostility and resentment felt by many people towards the ruling party is a theme that will punctuate the next two party meetings as well. While the theme of the party versus the people will be continually in the background, the conference of Russian communists will be dominated by another: the competing claims of separatists and integrationists.

Unlike all the other republics, the

Russian Federation does not have its own party organization with a first secretary, a bureau and a central committee — even though it accounts for nearly 60 per cent of all Soviet communists.

As the party organisations of the other republics started to be allowed more leeway, the pressure from Russian communists grew for their own organisation. This was partly a matter of a career structure, partly of national pride, partly the fear that despite their dominance at the centre, their interests could be neglected.

Earlier this year, Mr Gorbachev set up a Russian Communist Party bureau, with himself as chairman, hoping apparently that this would keep the "Russianists" at bay. He also announced a special conference to be attended by all Russian delegates to the July congress — to discuss the possible formation of a Russian Communist Party.

In February, Mr Gorbachev seemed confident that opinion would be evenly split. Since then, however, it has become clear that the vast majority of Russian communists want their own party organisation. Some

even feel that it would be better to split from the Soviet Party.

Having misread the mood of Russian communists, Mr Gorbachev then allowed himself to be outmanoeuvred by a group of Leningrad communists, led by the city's party leader, Boris Gidaspov. In April, Mr Gidaspov, a dark horse suspected of harbouring dark political ambitions, called a meeting of largely conservative-minded communists to set up an organising committee for a Russian Communist Party. Last month, the same group met again to agree their position for next week's meeting.

• Rosbie to drop: The official rate of the Soviet rouble, which is currently set at the unrealistically high level of one to one against sterling, is to be devalued progressively, starting this year. The target for full convertibility is 1995. Yuri Maslyukov, first deputy prime minister and chairman of the Soviet state planning committee, said yesterday.

Mr Maslyukov would not say how much this year's devaluation would be or when it would take effect.

Nato rejection, page 8

Cyprus plan to save girl with leukaemia

BY LIN JENKINS

THE girl aged two whose parents refuse to allow her a blood transfusion as part of her treatment for leukaemia because it conflicts with their beliefs as Jehovah's Witnesses, was returned to hospital in Cyprus yesterday.

Titos and Helen Charalambous, her parents, were persuaded by doctors and police that her health needed to be monitored before they took her to Florida, where they are convinced she can be cured without a transfusion.

However, once the child, Stephanie, arrived in hospital, legal moves began to make her a ward of the state, and doctors said privately that she would not leave before having a transfusion.

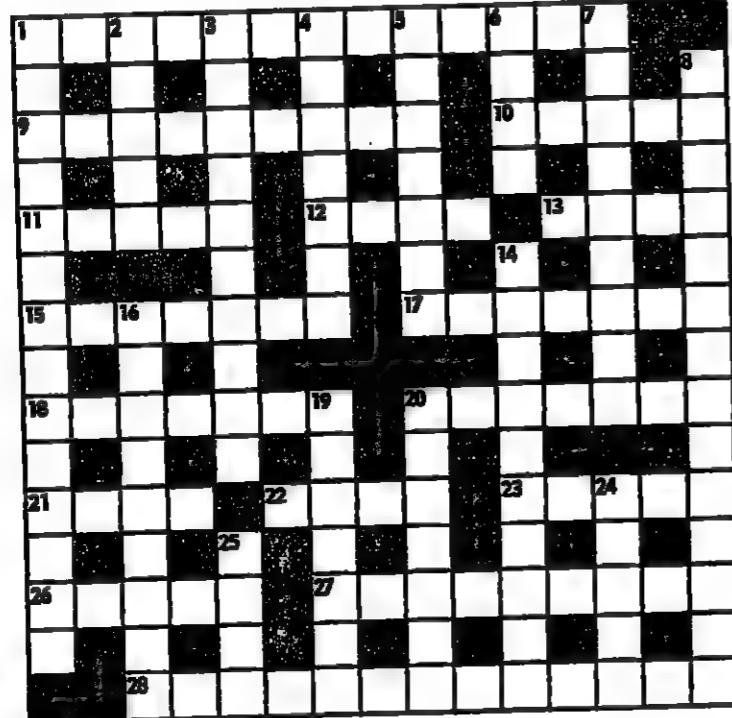
The case is unprecedented in Cyprus and Kyriacos Kouassis, a lawyer advising the authorities, said last night they were examining whether she could be treated without parental consent.

Stephanie was made a ward of court in England hours after

Andreas Havarias, the Cyprus police chief, spent several hours yesterday talking to Mr Charalambous, while detectives tried to trace Stephanie who was being shielded by the community of Jehovah's Witnesses in Nicosia. Mr Havarias agreed to allow Stephanie to leave the country if she was taken to hospital first.

Helen Soteriou, a British-born doctor who examined Stephanie the previous day, said the journey would be "virtually suicidal". She added that promised by a haematologist in Florida that Stephanie could be cured by chemotherapy alone, were "rubbish".

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,322



WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HEMATIC
a. Mid-winter
b. Bloody
c. Learning by doing
DACTYLIC
a. Rhyming verse
b. To do with fingers or toes
c. Like a dragon
GLAM
a. A vanity case
b. A rich wrinkle
c. To make eyes at
LEPIDORINE
a. Green marble
b. Rabbits
c. A trumpet organ stop

Answers on page 13

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London ... 701*
Kent, Surrey, Sussex ... 702*
Worcs, Herefs & Powys ... 703
Wilt, Gloucs, Avon, Soms ... 705*
Berks, Bucks, Oxon ... 706
Bed, Herts & Essex ... 707
Norfolk, Suffol, Cambia ... 708
West Mid & Shrop, Cheshire, Glos ... 709*
Shrop, Herefs & Warks ... 710*
West Midlands ... 711*
East Midlands ... 712*
Lincs & Humberside ... 713*
Dyfys & Powys ... 714*
Gwynedd & Cwyd ... 715*
N. Wales ... 716*
S. Yorks & Derby ... 717*
N. England ... 718*
Cumbria & Lake District ... 719
S. W. Scotland ... 720
W. Central Scotland ... 721
Edin S Fify/Lorain & Borders ... 722
E. Central & N. Highlands ... 723
N. Scotland ... 725
Cairngorms, Orkney & Shetland ... 726
N. Ireland ... 727

Weathercast charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak). *Includes pollen count.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs) ... 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 ... 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T ... 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 ... 735
M25 London Orbital only ... 736
National traffic and roadworks
National motorways ... 737
West Country ... 738
Wales ... 739
Midlands ... 740
East Anglia ... 741
North-West England ... 742
North-East England ... 743
Scotland ... 744
Northern Ireland ... 745
AA Roadcast is charged at 5p for 8 seconds (peak and standard) 5p for 12 seconds (off peak).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,321
ARGOS FUSILLADE
D R T L C B E K
A G A P E M O N E G A S T E
M I R U N I A A
S A H A N D R E A B E A U T
M U Y R E L
I N C O M E H I G R A T I C
T A D O B I
H I S P A H I C H O D E N
T N T M V E
F E L L O W T R A V E L L E R
A O T Y H R I A
B O O T H E E C K M A K E R
L S B E A U A E I
E Y E S R I G H T N E S T A

SHEAFFER A prize of a distinctive Sheaffer "Targa" Regency Stripe fountain pen with a solid 14-carat gold inlay will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Solution to Puzzle No 18,321

Name/Address

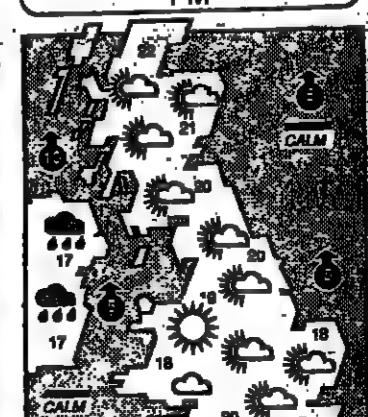
WEATHER

A fair amount of cloud will cover England and Wales but sunny spells are likely. Winds will be very light so whenever the sun appears it should feel pleasantly warm. Late in the day, clouds, and perhaps showers, will encroach into the far west. Northern Ireland will have patchy rain. Most of Scotland will enjoy fine, dry weather. Outlook: bright and mostly dry before occasional rain spreads from the southwest.

ABROAD

AROUND BRITAIN

MIDDAY: Thunder; drizzle; fog; s-sun; s-light; sn-snow; f-fair; c-cloud; r-rain
Scarsdale 3.7 ... 14 ... 97 ... sunny
Hunstanton 3.2 ... 15 ... 97 ... bright
Cromer 3.2 ... 15 ... 97 ... dull
Norwich 3.8 ... 15 ... 98 ... cloudy
Margate 3.0 ... 14 ... 97 ... cloudy
Folkestone 3.0 ... 15 ... 98 ... cloudy
Heathrow 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... dull
Bournemouth 3.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... dull
Poole 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... dull
Weymouth 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Exmouth 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Plymouth 1.8 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Torbay 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... sunny
Falmouth 0.6 ... 15 ... 97 ... sunny
Penzance 0.6 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Newquay 0.6 ... 15 ... 97 ... bright
Aberystwyth 0.3 ... 15 ... 97 ... dull
Saunton Sand 0.3 ... 15 ... 97 ... sunny
Ilfracombe 0.4 ... 15 ... 97 ... bright
Bude 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Douglas 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Aberdeen 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Belfast 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Cardiff 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Glasgow 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Edinburgh 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Birmingham 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Sheffield 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Nottingham 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Lincoln 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Bristol 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Bath 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Swindon 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Newbury 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Taunton 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Exeter 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Plymouth 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Falmouth 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Penzance 0.1 ... 15 ... 97 ... cloudy
Information supplied by Met Office



LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY London 9.20 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.28 pm to 4.53 am
Edinburgh 10.12 pm to 5.26 am
Belfast 9.40 pm to 4.35 am
Penzance 9.34 pm to 5.12 am

MANCHESTER

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 18C (61F); min 5 pm to 6 am, 9C (48F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 100 mm. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.1 hr.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Cardiff airport 20C (68F); lowest day temp: Larne, 10C (50F); highest night temp: Kirkwall, Orkney, 0.01 in; highest sunshine: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 10.5 hrs.

POLLEN COUNT

Thursday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 19C (66F); min 5 pm to 6 am, 12C (54F). Rain: 24 hr to 6 pm, 100 mm. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 4.5 hr.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY London Bridge 7.45 ... 6.3 ... 5.5 ... 6.1
Abberdeen 7.01 ... 3.7 ... 2.0 ... 3.0
Aberystwyth 12.46 ... 11.2 ... 10 ... 11.9
Cardiff 12.31 ... 10.5 ... 12.58 ... 10.3
Dover 11.53 ... 4.5 ... 3.0 ... 4.5
Falmouth 9.02 ... 5.6 ... 4.5 ... 5.6
Ferryport 6.02 ... 4.3 ... 3.0 ... 4.3
Glasgow 5.02 ... 4.3 ... 3.0 ... 4.3
Harwich 4.17 ... 4.9 ... 5.02 ... 4.9
Holyhead 12.12 ... 6.2 ... 5.6 ... 6.2
Hull 11.03 ... 4.0 ... 3.0 ... 4.0
Ipswich 12.24 ... 5.2 ... 12.24 ... 5.2
King's Lynn 1.23 ... 5.1 ... 1.27 ... 5.5
Leyton 8.02 ... 4.8 ... 5.0 ... 4.8
Leeds 8.02 ... 4.8 ... 5.0 ... 4.8
Lewes 2.07 ... 2.2 ... 2.0 ... 2.2
Lowestoft 5.01 ... 2.2 ... 2.0 ... 2.2
Margate 7.04 ... 4.2 ... 7.15 ... 4.2
Milford Haven 12.56 ... 5.8 ... 1.28 ... 5.5
Newquay 5.9 ... 3.0 ... 2.0 ... 3.0
Oamaru 12.52 ... 3.3 ... 12.52 ... 3.0
Penzance 11.05 ... 4.5 ... 4.7 ... 4.5
Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft. Times are BST

TODAY Sun rises: 4.43 am Sun sets: 9.20 pm
TOMORROW Sun rises: 4.43 am Sun sets: 9.20 pm

Moon rises: 1.29 pm Moon sets: 1.04 am Moon sets: 2.52 pm
Last Quarters 3.48pm

"Rory always has a bottle of Clicquot if he wins, and a magnum if he loses."



CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON



- COMMENT: KENNETH FLEET 19
- CREDIT: CARD CHARGES 23
- HOMEBUYERS: HELP AHEAD 25
- VICTIMS: COMPENSATION CUTS 27

BUSINESS

SATURDAY JUNE 16 1990

SECTION 2

17

Haslam leads business honours with a peerage

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

SIR Robert Haslam, chairman of British Coal and before that of British Steel, is made a life peer in the Queen's Birthday Honours. He turned British Steel round from losses to an operating profit and looks set to do the same at British Coal.

He leads a strong line-up of honours for industry, commerce and the City. Eleven knighthoods span a range of industries from oil and electricity to mining and excavator manufacture. Almost a third of the 96 CBEs awarded go to commerce and industry, including agriculture.

Among the new knights are Allen Sheppard, the chairman and group chief executive of the Grand Metropolitan drinks, food and pubs group, and Antony Pilkington, chairman of Pilkington, the glass maker.

Also knighted is Bob Reid, soon to step down as chairman and chief executive of Shell UK and who has just taken on the chairmanship — part-time until October — of British Rail.

A knighthood also goes to Brian Wolfson, the industrialist who became Wembley chairman and who also now heads the government's National Training Task Force.

Other knights include Anthony Bamford,



Honoured: Sir Robert Haslam, left, now a peer, and new knights Brian Wolfson, Antony Pilkington, Anthony Bamford and Allen Sheppard

men's maker based in Wales, is also knighted. A new knight in the City is Michael Richardson, the former managing director of NM Rothschild and Sons and a close adviser to the government on City matters.

He was in charge of the privatisations of British Gas and the final sale of British Petroleum. Mr

Richardson has recently become chairman of Smith New Court, the securities group.

Christopher Tugendhat, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, becomes a knight, as does Donald Miller, chairman of the South of Scotland Electricity Board, who has built a reputation for successfully operating nuclear power plants. A

knighthood also goes to William Stones, managing director of the China Light & Power Company in Hong Kong.

Sir Robert Haslam's honour has come after two successful stints in loss-beleaguered state industries. The former mining engineer learned his management skills at ICI, where he rose to deputy chairman followed by eight years at Tate & Lyle, where he was chairman for three years.

Sir Robert, aged 67, had also taken on the chairmanship of the then state-owned British Steel Corporation in the 1982-83 financial year when heavy operating losses were being made. By the time he left in 1986, the corporation was out of the red operationally.

He took over the British Coal chairmanship in 1986. The indications are that years of heavy losses at British Coal will have been turned round to a bottom-line profit by the end of this year, when Sir Robert's stewardship is due to end.

Among those awarded CBEs are Duncan Black, until recently chairman of the British Tourist Authority and English Tourist Board; Charles Bradley, managing director of Associated British Ports; Alan Clements, group finance director at ICI; and Charles Winter, group chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Rank may sell Mecca casinos

RANK Organisation is likely to sell Mecca's central London casinos if its £535 million bid is successful, although it would wait until the market improves.

The formal offer document for Mecca states that balance sheet gearing will remain under 50 per cent if the offer is fully accepted, and that there will be no need for disposals of assets into depressed markets.

Mecca has up for sale £250

million of assets, an attempt to reduce the debt load which is put at about £460 million. The company is fiercely resisting Rank's all-paper offer.

Rank says the offer is good value "given the current unsatisfactory financial position of Mecca".

The next stage of the take-over hinges on whether it is referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

In the market, Rank closed at 854p to value Mecca shares at 95p, a premium to the 89p at which Mecca were trading.

Donald Trump, the New York property developer, has failed to make interest payments due on one of his Atlantic City casinos. Trump was due to pay \$36 million on two bond issues, \$16 million on his Trump Plaza casino and \$19.8 million on Trump Castle bonds.

Ranking, page 18

DTI launches fraud enquiry at Atlantic

By ANGELA MACKAY

THE Department of Trade and Industry began an investigation yesterday into possible fraud and misconduct at Atlantic Computers, the subsidiary that caused British & Commonwealth's collapse.

Two inspectors have been appointed under section 432 of the Companies Act 1985, similar to investigations into alleged fraud at Barlow Clowes, the financial services company, and Guinness's takeover bid for Distillers.

A DTI spokesman said

they had been consultations with the Serious Fraud Office but the SFO denied it had started its own enquiry.

Atlantic was placed into administration in April when John Gunn, B&C chief executive, announced that B&C was writing off £550 million on the investment. After attempts to revive the group through a series of disposals to raise cash and the tabling of a reconstruction plan, B&C followed its subsidiary into administration last week.

The investigation is

expected to focus on the preparation of Atlantic's report and accounts over the past five years.

Spicer & Oppenheim

was the company's auditor when Atlantic was listed on the stock exchange in 1983 until 1988. Peat Marwick McLintock took over in 1989 and apparently alerted B&C that provisions would have to be made for Atlantic as early as April 1989.

The ripple effect of B&C's

collapse is continuing, with

Barclays Bank providing £100 million against its exposure to B&C, while B&C's board has already asked lawyers to enquire into suspected fraud.

The DTI has limited its investigation to Atlantic Computer and Atlantic Computer Systems, but the act gives the

inspectors the power to examine subsidiaries and holding companies, as well as to take evidence under oath.

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Spicer & Oppenheim

Tomkins' chief predicts 17% rise to £76m for full year

By Our City Staff

GREGORY Hutchings, head of Tomkins, the industrial management group, has forecast a 17 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the year ending next April, to not less than £76 million.

He intends to recommend a final dividend of not less than 6.42p per share, making a total for the year of 9.12p, a 35 per cent increase on the 6.75p paid in 1988-89.

The forecast accompanied confirmation of Tomkins' £25.2 million rights issue to pay for its planned £50 million acquisition of Philips Industries, the American building products group.

Tomkins is effectively offering shareholders three new shares for every four held at 242p each, although, for technical reasons, the issue will take the form of non-interest bearing convertible unsecured loan stock that will be automatically convertible into ordinary shares.

The price of 242p will be paid in two equal instalments. Tomkins said that it had now signed a formal merger agreement with Philips, but that the second instalment would be cancelled if for any reason the



Hutchings: confident acquisition was not completed.

Tomkins shares responded to the news with a 10p rise to 315p.

● Mr Hutchings' other-quoted vehicle, Mosaic Investments, has acquired two die-making businesses, which will take it outside Britain for the first time.

It is paying up to £11.15 million for Ashwell Label Dies, of Brentwood, Essex, and Clearwater, Florida. The down-payment is £4.15 million, with up to a further £7 million payable depending on performance.

Airsprung hit by difficult trading

By PAUL PANGALOS

CONTINUED difficult trading in the furniture industry affected the results at Airsprung Group, the unlisted securities market beds and furniture maker.

Pre-tax profits fell by 23 per cent to £2.35 million in the year to end-March. The group's profits were down by 28 per cent at the interim stage, after it had given warnings that high interest rates, the slowdown in house sales and regulations over the use of flame-retardant foam would affect results.

Group turnover, boosted by acquisitions, grew by 28 per cent to £43.9 million for the

Dividend assurance is boost for Prior

By MATTHEW BOND

JAMES Prior, chairman of the property trading and investment group Prior, has reassured shareholders that the company will be paying a final dividend when it announces its preliminary results next month. The announcement was prompted by a sustained slide in the share price.

When Prior reversed into the architectural ironmongery chain Knobs & Knockers last July in a £21 million deal, its management took Knobs & Knockers' shares priced at 120p. James Capel and Allied Provincial raised a further £5 million through an institutional placing at 100p.

Eleven months and a name-change later, Prior's shares opened at 14p yesterday, having earlier in the week touched 13p, a price at which a block of 600,000 shares changed hands recently.

They jumped 8p to 22p, before closing at 21p, after Mr Prior's statement that the company's directors knew of no reason for the share price collapse.

"Rumours of the demise of my company have been greatly exaggerated," said Mr Prior, who through a family trust owns 51 per cent of the company's shares.

"As indicated in my interim statement, it is the board's intention to recommend a final dividend of 2.5p a share, bringing the total for the year to 5p a share," he said.

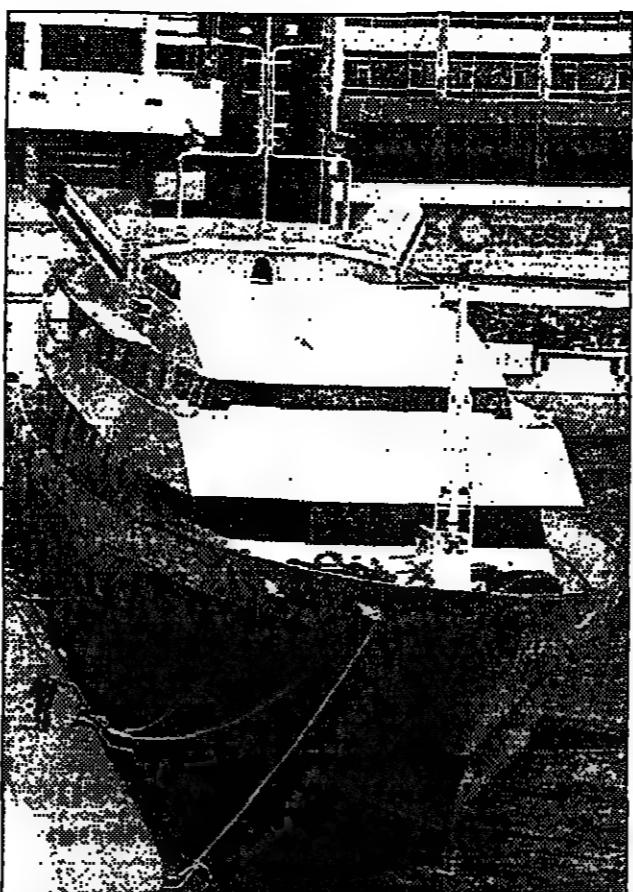
Prior's brokers are forecasting pre-tax profits of £4 million for the year that ended in March, giving earnings per share of 8.9p. The company has gearing at 150 per cent at the moment, although Mr Prior is confident that will be brought down shortly. "We're extremely happy with our bank's 70 per cent of our borrowings are at fixed rate."

Mr Prior was keen to point out that Prior is not a property development company, but an active investment group.

Two months ago it reduced its link with retailing by selling a 75 per cent stake in Knobs & Knockers for £75.

The reverse takeover of Knobs & Knockers was Prior's second attempt at securing a public float. The first was planned for October 1987 and had to be cancelled.

The company plans to change its name to Airsprung Furniture Group.



Luxury yacht: Trump Princess fails to find buyer

Sinking feeling for Trump in Japan

From JOSEPH IN TOKYO

MORE bad news for Donald Trump. His hopes of finding a rich Japanese tycoon to take the gaudy Trump Princess off his hands have to have sunk.

A sale may have done something to help the New York property developer out of his financial squeeze, providing, of course, the 282-ft luxury yacht is not heavily mortgaged. But the yacht's two-month stay in Tokyo has attracted several gawkers and some interest, but no buyers.

She is due to sail this weekend. But her agents here have contacted nearly 3,000 rich and famous Japanese and are running out of likely punters prepared to pay the asking price of \$115 million — well above what dealers say the boat is worth.

Toshihiko Tsutsumi of Mitsubishi, a big trading company commissioned by Mr Trump to hawk the yacht around Japan, said: "Many people showed a great deal of interest. But the ship is registered in the Bahamas and it is a big problem to change it to a Japanese flag. And if the new owners want to use it as a hotel ship, or something like that, then it has to be registered in Japan. Also the price is very high."

Mr Tsutsumi reckons that 30 of the more than 200 people who visited the yacht in Tokyo Bay were serious.

Had he contacted Ryohei Saito, the paper mogul who paid more than \$160 million for a Van Gogh and a Rembrandt?

"We thought about contacting him, but we haven't so far," said Mr Tsutsumi. "Perhaps we should."

Mr Trump picked up the Trump Princess for \$30 million three years ago. Its former owner, Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi Arabian arms dealer, is said to have spent \$85 million on her. Mr Trump spent a further \$9 million.

Mr Alliday, the managing director of Bridon, says that the company's examination of the business and other aspects of Verto "have revealed areas which require further investigation".

Mr Alliday says a final decision whether to proceed with the acquisition will be taken before the end of September. In 1989 Bridon made pre-tax profits of £16 million.

Turnover edged up from £19.6 million to £20.3 million, with earnings per share slumped from 3.3p to 0.2p. However, the interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p. There was an extraordinary gain of £468,000 from a property disposal.

Elders hits back at allegations

From DAVID TWEED
IN SYDNEY

PETER Bartels, the recently installed chief executive of the troubled Australian brewer Elders IXL, has denied that Elders or companies in the group are in financial difficulties.

The company's share price fell 11 cents to Aus\$1.78 (81p) on Thursday and plunged another 8 cents in early trade yesterday. Mr Bartels' statement helped correct the slide and Elders closed last night at Aus\$1.79 a share.

In his statement, the former chief executive of Elders Brewing Group said: "It is not our normal practice to respond to rumours, but in this case they are so inaccurate, totally without foundation and potentially damaging that I feel it is necessary to set the record straight."

He said Elders was in a sound financial position as were all companies in the group. "The specific allegation that the bank had withdrawn a line of credit from Elders Finance Group is simply not true," he said. Negotiations were "well advanced" on the Aus\$5 billion refinancing package.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Receivers cut another 237 jobs at Coloroll

ANOTHER 237 people employed by Coloroll, the failed home products group, are to lose their jobs. About 1,000 employees were given notice on Monday by the administrative receivers appointed to salvage what they could from the debt-laden company. The latest redundancies are 200 workers and 37 office staff at the Coloroll Crossley carpet factory at Kidderminster, Hereford and Worcester.

However, receivers from Ernst & Young, the accountant, plan to keep the plant in business with the hope of selling it as a going concern. Until yesterday, Coloroll Crossley employed 1,100 at Kidderminster. Last Sunday, the receivers announced the closure of a furniture plant at Dudley, West Midlands, with the loss of 600 jobs and another 400 redundancies at a home furnishings unit in Boston, Lincolnshire.

Eurotherm in \$12.7m buy

EUROTHERM International is to pay up to \$12.7 million for Aeonics Systems of Massachusetts, a maker and supplier of high-precision gauging and systems. The vendors will receive \$8 million on completion, and up to \$4.7 million on future performance. Aeonics fits in with Kinetron Gauging Systems, Eurotherm's British company.

Bulgin results halved

PRE-TAX profits at AF Bulgin & Company, the maker of electrical and electronic components, were more than halved from £801,000 to £365,000 in the year to end-January. This follows the 49 per cent fall in interim profits after the difficult trading conditions the company predicted last year. Turnover slipped from £12.9 million to £12.4 million. Earnings per share fell from 1.9p to 0.95p. However, the dividend is maintained at 0.2p for the year. The shares were unchanged at 95p.

Strata rises to £86,000

STRATA Investments saw pre-tax revenues increase from £47,000 to £86,000 in the six months to end-April. Net assets per share fell from 161.5p to 162.5p, and from 161.4p to 156.9p assuming full conversion of warrants. Net assets per warrant fell to 56.5p (61.4p). Earnings per ordinary shares rise from 0.20p to 0.38p. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

Saab-Scania at £78.5m

PRE-TAX profits of Saab-Scania for the four months to end-April topped most expectations at SKr17 million (£7.85 million), against SKr642 million previously. Sales were SKr1.2 billion (£9.2 billion). Profit per share excluding extraordinary income and 30 per cent tax was SKr16.1 compared with SKr23.7 in the corresponding period.

Eldridge, Pope dips

ELDRIDGE, the west country brewer, reports a collapse in interim profits from £1.05 million to £1.00 million.

Shareholders were warned last month that the company might only break even for the six months to end-March due to "difficult trading conditions". Profits for the full year are likely to be substantially below last year's results, the board adds.

Turnover edged up from £19.6 million to £20.3 million, with earnings per share slumped from 3.3p to 0.2p. However, the interim dividend is maintained at 1.75p. There was an extraordinary gain of £468,000 from a property disposal.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg* (p)	Yearly chg* (%)	Daily chg* (%)	Yearly chg* (%)	Daily chg* (p)	Yearly chg* (%)
The World (free)	730.0	-0.3	-13.4	-0.2	-8.7	-0.5	-8.8
EAFFE (free)	139.4	-0.3	-13.6	-0.2	-8.8	-0.6	-8.8
Europe (free)	1272.8	-0.4	-18.3	-0.3	-11.2	-0.7	-13.7
North America (free)	130.5	-0.4	-18.8	-0.4	-11.5	-0.7	-14.1
Nordic (free)	159.1	-0.6	-2.7	-0.4	-0.1	-0.8	-2.8
Pacific (free)	247.9	-0.2	5.4	0.1	9.5	-0.5	11.3
Far East (free)	1291.7	-0.2	-27.1	-0.3	-17.7	-0.5	-23.0
Australia (free)	300.4	0.2	-13.5	0.0	-6.9	0.0	-8.7
Austria (free)	1752.3	-0.6	-17.9	-0.5	-24.8	-0.8	-24.5
Belgium (free)	886.3	-0.1	-10.0	0.0	-8.8	-0.4	-4.9
Canada (free)	515.8	-0.2	-14.6	-0.3	-1.9	-0.4	-1.8
Denmark (free)	1566.5	-0.1	1.0	0.1	4.3	-0.4	-5.4
Finland (free)	247.9	-0.2	5.4	0.1	9.5	-0.5	11.3
France (free)	2891.7	-0.2	-27.1	-0.3	-17.7	-0.5	-23.0
Germany (free)	1419.8	-0.3	-27.8	-0.3	-18.1	-0.6	-23.5
Hong Kong (free)	3290.6	0.9	7.8	0.6	13.5	0.6	13.8
Italy (free)	391.4	-1.1	1.5	-0.8	5.6	-1.4	7.2
Japan (free)	4403.0	-0.3	-28.6	-0.3	-19.0	-0.5	-24.8
Netherlands (free)	853.1	-1.1	-9.8	-0.4	-4.5	-1.4	-4.7
New Zealand (free)	87.8	1.1	-14.9	0.9	-8.1	0.8	-10.1
Norway (free)	1505.5	-0.5	-12.2	-0.3	-16.9	-0.5	-18.5
Spain (free)	280.6	-0.6	-11.7	-0.5	-16.4	-0.9	-18.0
Singapore (free)	1952.5	0.4	-2.1	0.2	0.6	0.1	3.4
Sweden (free)	1755.7	0.2	0.1	0.4	4.6	-0.1	5.7
Switzerland (free)	260.1	0.3	7.4	0.4	12.2	0.0	13.5
UK (free)	942.0	-0.8	3.0	-0.3	1.8	-1.1	8.8
USA (free)	711.7	-0.6	-1.3	-0.5	-1.3	-0.9	4.2
USA (free)	470.4	-0.1	-2.6	-0.4	2.8	-0.4	2.8

*60p Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

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IEP offers 150p in cash to buy out the Tozer minorities

By MATTHEW BOND

SIR Ron Brierley's IEP group is offering minority shareholders in Tozer Kemsley Millburn, the motor dealer, 150p in cash for each of their shares.

The offer represents a 31 per cent premium to the 114.5p at which Tozer's shares closed on Thursday. The offer, to be made via a scheme of arrangement, values Tozer at £351 million. IEP currently has 76.3 per cent of the company.

Mr Reg Heath, the chairman of Tozer, says the IEP move has the full support of his board. "We're very relaxed about it at T.K.M. There is no coercion. From an operational point of view it won't make a scrap of difference."

IEP first invested in Tozer in 1982. But it was in 1985 that it acquired a majority stake, when it subscribed for £12.7 million worth of new shares under a restructuring package.

A 62.2 per cent stake was diluted to 50.5 per cent by the 1985 purchase of Kennings, but IEP has been buying shares in the market steadily ever since.

Mr Heath says he is sure that Sir Ron would have continued to buy shares, eventually risking the company's public quote and the interests of the remaining minority shareholders. "I think this



Sir Ron: placing rejected



Heath: gave full support

draws things to a nice clean conclusion."

Shareholders' funds at

Tozer have grown from £12.7

million in 1984 to £143.2 million by the end of 1989. Profits over the same period have grown from £5.2 million to £26.6 million. But this improvement has not been reflected in the Tozer share price, largely because the substantial IEP stake deterred City institutions.

Stuart Mitchell, managing director of IEP's British operation, said: "We have built up our 76 per cent stake over three years at roughly 1p a share and have noticed that the share price has continually underperformed."

Mr Heath says the loss of Tozer's quote will not curb future expansion. "The main advantage of being a public company is that you have paper you can use for acquisitions. But our paper has been so poorly rated that I would not give it away in acquisitions."

An alternative way of revitalising institutional interest in the company by IEP placing a large part of its stake was considered, before being rejected. IEP would have wanted a premium for its shares but, in the current market, would have got a discount, says Mr Heath.

Three months ago Tozer paid £100 million for Western

Motor Holdings, the Lada car

importer.

Manpower US-bound as profits fall £3.5m

By MARTIN WALLER

MANPOWER, the former Blue Arrow employment agency, is likely to be an American corporation again by September, turning the clock back to three years ago, before Tony Berry bought the original Manpower operation.

Profits fell from £24.8 million to £13.1 million in the six months to April 30, mainly because of a slowdown in the non-Manpower operations that are the remaining legacy of Blue Arrow.

The company has been forced to drop the interim dividend because of a lack of distributable reserves. Last time, when £42.8 million of extraordinary reorganisation costs left shareholders with a £27.2 million attributable loss, a 0.6p payment was made.

Mitchell Fromstein, the chairman, said a full-year dividend is likely to be paid once this "technical problem" has been resolved.

Shareholders will soon receive details of the plan to take the company back to America. The move is likely to involve the issue of new American shares which will supplant the small amount of equity, now reduced to little more than 20 per cent, still in British hands.

Mr Fromstein said only about 5 per cent was held by private individuals. The move across the Atlantic will need the blessing of a substantial proportion of shareholders, probably a 75 per cent vote. "My sense is that most or all of them would be in favour of the move," he said.

The group said the Manpower-branded business managed a 1.2 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £27.7 million, but profits in the second quarter as margins worsened, particularly in America which historically has provided half of earnings. Profits fall 8.4 per cent on revenue up 23 per cent.

Of the non-Manpower businesses, a clutch in America are being sold for more than \$50 million. The British ones are still on the market and taking longer to sell than had been expected.

The initial consideration is to be £1.6 million, with £1.3 million being paid in cash and £300,000 in shares. The remaining £1.9 million will be paid only if Charlton's aggregate pre-tax profits exceed £640,000 for the 25-month period to December 1991.

Conrad is to raise £1.8 million through a nine-for-ten rights issue, with £1.3 million being used to pay the initial cash consideration and the remaining £500,000 being used to reduce group borrowings.

Cup-time coup by Bobby Charlton

THE middle of the World Cup seems a curious time for Conrad Continental, the fashion accessories and leisure group, to announce the terms and conditions of the acquisition of Bobby Charlton's soccer coaching school (Matthew Bond writes).

The memory of the performance of the Irish national team, as coached by Mr Charlton's brother Jack, against England will still be vivid next month as Conrad shareholders gather in Manchester to approve the deal, the day after the World Cup Final itself.

Some difficult questions will have to be addressed. If Bobby Charlton, a hero of the 1966 World Cup, is teaching a whole new generation of footballers the same footballing skills his brother Jack has taught the Irish, should shareholders' monies be used to complete the acquisition? Never mind fiduciary duty, what about love of the national game?

Conrad intends to pay a maximum £3.5 million for Charlton Enterprises — quite a price for a company that made



Profits school: Bobby Charlton, who is selling to Conrad

Sharp-eyed vision that led C&W to scale the heights

While at the trade department between 1987 and 1989, Lord Young was responsible for telecommunications policy. The political hostility provoked by his appointment as executive chairman of Cable and Wireless, as predictable as the appointment itself, should not be taken at its face value, but there is a legitimate public concern about the ease with which former ministers glide into senior positions in policy-sensitive companies. As *The Times* has argued, this concern might best be overcome by a formal vetting procedure and a decent spell in purdah between the cares of office and a padded seat in the boardroom.

Lord Young has waited 15 months — not, I suspect, his original intention — and he is an excellent choice. He has not had the brilliant business career often claimed for him but he does possess high commercial intelligence, he understands the workings of industry and government, and he has presence, persuasiveness and a steely, no-nonsense approach.

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WALL STREET

Dow drops ten points

New York

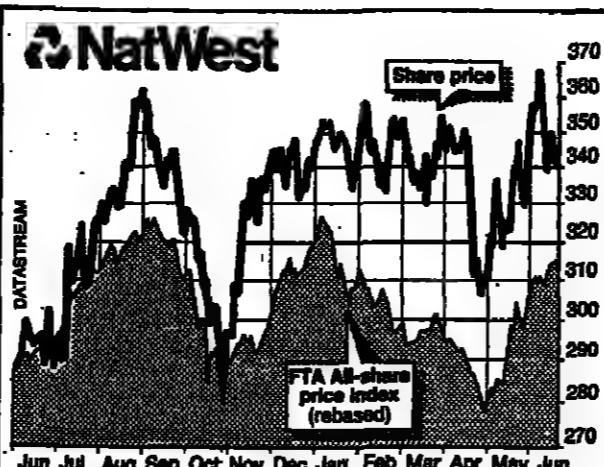
THE Dow Jones industrial average was down by ten points at 2,918.22 in early trading. Shares opened lower following a barrage of economic reports.

The consumer price and trade figures were being inter-

preted favourably, but industrial production and capacity usage were higher than expected. Imports and retail prices added to hopes for lower interest rates, but output and capacity use indicated an unexpected strength in the economy. (Reuter)

STOCK MARKET

NatWest slips as broker cuts profit forecast again



THE slump in the American property market and the worsening bad debt situation in the UK has forced the National Westminster Bank's own broker, County NatWest WoodMac, to reduce its profit forecast for the second time in less than six months.

Shares in NatWest took the news badly, falling 9p to 341p with more than 4 million traded as County advised its clients to sell. The broker has cut £60 million from its estimate for the current year of £1.33 billion before tax and reduced its forecast for next year from £1.53 billion to £1.45 billion. Other brokers are now expected to follow. Last year, NatWest's profits slumped to £404 million because of provisions for Third World debt.

County says that it was forced to make the cut because of the bank's exposure to the American property market where prices have been falling, making a big dent in its £600 million portfolio. A further hefty provision is expected soon. The contribution from its retail banking operation is likely to fall from £125 million to less than £100 million.

The bank is also facing problems here with the growing number of company failures which could force bad debt provisions up by £100 million to £350 million.

But the rest of the cleaners seemed unperturbed by NatWest. They have all been subject to profit downgradings in recent months and must be looking for the situation to bottom out. Barclays eased 4p to 349p, while Midland held

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Court ruling gives retailers freedom to penalise customers using plastic

Way clear for charge on credit card sales

By LINDSAY COOK, FAMILY MONEY EDITOR

A HIGH Court ruling has opened the way for shops to charge more to credit card customers than to people using cash and cheques.

Yesterday's decision supported the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), which last August recommended that retailers should be free to charge different prices on cash and credit card sales.

The trade and industry department has already prepared a draft order to allow dual-pricing. This will be laid before parliament and at least 21 days later retailers will be able to charge credit card customers more. The order allows shops to charge cardholders more to take account of the charges levied on retailers by the credit card companies.

The merchant fees average 1.8 per cent with large petrol retailers paying very little and

Fixed rate launched by Anglia

By LINDSAY COOK

THE Nationwide Anglia building society, which this week reported it had lost some of its share of the mortgage market, has launched a fixed rate mortgage at 12.9 per cent for five years for first time buyers.

The society, the second largest, says that the 2.5 per cent cut on its standard rate will save £88.54 a month on a £50,000 loan.

The annual percentage rate (APR), which should guide borrowers to the best deal, is little help with the current fixed rate loans.

This is because the lenders make different assumptions about the interest rate on the loan after the fixed rate period has finished. Some assume that the loan will continue on the lower fixed rate for their calculations, others including the Nationwide Anglia, assume it will revert to the current variable rate. This means that the loan has an APR of 15.3 per cent, over 1 per cent higher than more expensive loans.

Borrowers, therefore, have to compare the monthly payments of fixed rate loans on offer and check what extra costs are attached to the loan.

The draft order says that

shopkeepers will not have to price every time for cash and credit card. They will have to display a notice stating that people who pay by credit card will have to pay a certain percentage more.

There is also concern that sales assistants will not be able to differentiate between debit, payment and credit cards and charge customers using all types of plastic cards a higher price.

After an MMC report in the early-Eighties dual pricing was allowed but was soon scrapped when petrol retailers overcharged. Jacques Kosciusko, European managing director of Visa International, who said: "The real test of dual-pricing will come in the markets. Our analysis is that the consumers will not tolerate any large-scale surcharge on cards."

Simon Hinde of the Consumers' Association said it did not see anything wrong in principle with shops charging more to cover the merchant fee.

"However, there are practical worries about the potential for confusion. We would want shops to be required to display on their doors and at the tills that they make a surcharge for cards. We would worry about profiteering by retailers charging more than they pay."

Visa had contested the MMC report which stated that it operated a monopoly. Until yesterday's ruling that the report was correct the draft order could not be brought in.

Jan Lindsey, director of banking at Save & Prosper, said: "I cannot see retailers keeping to an average surcharge of 1.8 per cent. They are likely to be higher. When this was last tried it was particularly abused by petrol retailers and was stopped."

Some states in America allow credit card surcharges. "In California the surcharge will be 8 per cent on petrol and motorists have been driven back into cash for buying petrol," said Mr Lindsey.

"Our own economists have worked out that dual pricing could add 0.25 per cent to the rate of inflation if all retailers jump on the bandwagon and add 5 per cent to their prices for credit cards. We think this is the rate they are likely to go for."

Mr Lindsey continued: "It's left to market forces we are likely to see identical surcharges levied in the high streets but in rural areas where there is no choice retailers will be able to charge what they like."

The draft order says that



Cash will do nicely: plastic faces a surcharge at point of sale after the High Court backed an MMC finding

Private investors rally behind Globe trust

By JON ASHWORTH

PRIVATE investors have been rallying round the Globe investment trust after yesterday's news that the £1 billion takeover bid by the British Coal pension funds may proceed after all.

Many of the 37,000 private Globe shareholders have written to institutions with large stakes in the investment trust, threatening to withdraw business if they sell their stakes.

Yesterday, the Office of Fair Trading announced that it would not be referring the bid for further investigation.

Large institutional investors, including Standard Life, Prudential, Pearl and Equitable life, together hold more than 15 per cent of Globe shares — the minimum the coal funds need to gain control.

But the funds will need to increase their offer substantially if they hope to appeal to investors, and they only have until the end of next week to decide whether or not to do so.

The stockmarket has risen sharply since the cash offer of 191p was announced in May. The Globe board has valued its shares at 233p.

Under the takeover code, Globe is not allowed to publish any new information in its defence after Monday — day 39 in the bid timetable.

The coal funds have until day 46, or next Sunday, to decide whether to amend or increase their offer and cannot buy in the market at a higher price without announcing it first.

One way or another, the battle must be over by July 9 — 60 days after the offer was announced.

The coal funds already have a 35 per cent stake in Globe and need 50 per cent to gain control. Their most likely target is not private investors who jointly hold 28 per cent of the shares, but the handful of key institutions which hold just under 5 per cent each.

Mr Robin Key, a director of Globe Management, said investors should not lose heart and that it would continue to fight.

There are still 54 firms without full authorisation.

These are still able to continue in investment business

SIB concern over lost funds

By LINDSAY COOK

CLIENTS of failed investment companies are confused about whether they will get their money back through the investors' compensation scheme set up under the Financial Services Act.

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB) is concerned that people should not miss out through failing to make a claim on the compensation fund which was established in August 1988.

Investors in Dunsdale Securities, suspended last week with up to £20 million of clients' money at risk, will be the next to be able to claim.

But before any claims can be made the company must be in full liquidation. Dunsdale is currently in provisional liquidation.

SIB stresses that it does not matter when the investment was made so long as the company was fully authorised to carry out investment business when it failed.

But in many cases where amounts under the limit are involved the fund may still pay out less than the investor expects. It may only compensate for the original investment, or if that has reduced in value, for the market value at the time of default.

The spokeswoman said:

"The scheme cannot pay out on false statements. If an investment firm were to claim that an investment was earning 25 per cent a year and sent statements falsely increasing the original investment by that amount each year, investors could only claim for the original investment to be compensated."

But anyone who invested with a firm long before the Financial Services Act was even thought of should be covered so long as the company later received authorisation. The maximum payout is £48,000. This is 100 per cent of the first £30,000 and 90 per cent of the next £20,000.

A SIB spokeswoman said:

"Investors should make sure that their money is fully covered and not put all their investments with one firm if they exceed the compensation limit."

But in many cases where amounts under the limit are involved the fund may still pay out less than the investor expects. It may only compensate for the original investment, or if that has reduced in value, for the market value at the time of default.

The spokeswoman said:

Mortgage windfall scheme under trial

By JON ASHWORTH

COUNCIL tenants all over Britain could soon own their homes at no extra cost, under a scheme currently being tested in Scotland which converts rents into mortgages.

If the scheme takes off it could turn millions of tenants into homeowners and give those who cannot afford to buy outright a cheap way of spreading payments.

While only three families in Scotland have joined the scheme so far, another 150 applications are already in the pipeline. There have been more than 1,000 enquiries and local officials say interest is high.

The scheme was officially launched by the prime minister in March and is attracting growing interest throughout Britain.

The main attraction is that tenants can apply to buy their home knowing that the initial mortgage payments will be no bigger than the amount they pay in rent.

Until now, the only alternative has been the government's right to buy scheme, launched in 1980, which allows tenants to purchase their homes and arrange their own financing.

Scottish Homes, which is running the pilot scheme, said it was "extremely satisfied" with the response so far, even though legal procedures had slowed down the number of successful purchases.

There are about 65,000 council house tenants in Scotland, and about 40,000 of them are eligible. Tenants can only apply if they have spent at least two years in rented council houses or flats.

Scottish Homes plans to test the scheme on a pilot basis for the next three years.

When proposals were first put forward, Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, said it would work alongside the right to buy scheme.

Mr Rifkind said the rents to mortgages scheme would put tenants on the road to owning their homes, even if they could not reasonably afford to purchase immediately under right to buy.

Costs would be kept down by topping up a normal bank or building society loan with an interest-free loan from Scottish Homes, keeping weekly payments unchanged.

Introducing an irresistible 13.75% mortgage.
(As you'll see from the prose, there aren't any cons.)

(14.7%)
Typical APR

At times like these, fixed-rate mortgages look very attractive. Whether you're moving or remortgaging, they offer you lower repayments — and protection against any more nasty surprises.

But with many of them, there's a problem. A lot of people believe that interest rates will start to fall next year as the general election approaches: and there are few things more frustrating than being locked into a fixed-rate mortgage while interest rates are tumbling.

That's why our new fixed-rate mortgage — which offers an exceptionally competitive rate of 13.75% (14.7% APR) — is only fixed until June 1st 1991.

On that date, you get a choice.

If interest rates are indeed tumbling, you can switch into a variable rate. If they aren't, you can choose a new fixed rate, in line with the market. And if the market trend still isn't clear, you can even choose a hybrid which is partly fixed and partly variable.

All without any redemption penalties.

In short, it's a mortgage which looks better and better the more you look into it.

For written details, call John Charcol, a licensed credit broker, on (071) 589 7080. Or write to us at Mercury House, 195 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RE.

JOHN CHARCOL

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FAMILY MONEY

Italian dealers evoke essence of grand tour

By CONAL GREGORY

ITALY and the grand tour is the theme for this year's Grosvenor House Antiques Fair which continues until the end of next week.

There are 15 Italian dealers exhibiting at the enlarged fair which has merged with the Burlington Fair.

Pre-1914 British painting was little appreciated 20 years ago but has now come strongly into vogue. Both David Messum and Peter Nahum offer a wide range. Nahum has a Burne Jones and a Reynolds which have not been exhibited before.

Antoine Cheneviere Fine Arts has a Russian barge in



Fair deal: Giuseppe d'Angelo's silver Sicilian table fountain was sold for a record price earlier this year

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Greater protection for money

Unit trust groups plan new breed of investment

By JON ASHWORTH

A SAFER breed of unit trust which will protect more of investors' money at less risk could be sold widely in Britain by the end of the year, according to a new survey.

But at least two of the largest unit trust groups have said they are in no hurry to launch the new-style plans, and they are unlikely to be widely available for some time to come.

The survey, carried out by KPMG Banking & Finance Management Consultants, suggests that eight of the ten largest unit trust groups are seriously thinking of adding the new plans - called authorised futures and options funds or AFOPS - to their range of unit trusts.

But M&G, the largest unit trust group, has said it wants nothing to do with them.

Tim Miller, M&G's marketing director, said there was no prospect of the group launching any unit trusts linked to futures and options, which are often associated with risky speculative deals.

"I would be very surprised if many of the big unit trust groups were to do so," he said.

Two other groups, Save &

I'm in no hurry to launch them



Prosper and Fidelity, are looking at the potential of such plans, but are in no hurry to launch them.

Ken Emery of S&P said the lower-risk funds, which would be similar to the index-beating bonds which promise high returns with little risk, would be the most popular choice.

"This type of fund would help bridge the gap between building society accounts and equity investment. We're keen on such lower risk funds."

A Fidelity spokeswoman

Girobank promotes custody service

By JON ASHWORTH

GIROBANK is promoting one of the cheapest deals for customers who want to keep documents in safe custody.

For £1, the bank will accept sealed envelopes sent by post, and charges £3 for any withdrawals. Many of the High Street banks charge more for such a service, and require customers to call in if they want to inspect their documents.

To use the service, Girobank customers should seal their wills, property deeds, share certificates, insurance policies and other documents in a strong envelope and sign and date the flap. They should post it by recorded delivery in another envelope with a completed application form, available at one of seven regional Girobank Telecare centres. Envelopes can be withdrawn at any time and will be sent by registered delivery to customers for £3.

Most banks make no charge for storing a will, provided they are made executors.

Lloyds Bank charges £10 a year to store sealed envelopes, including any number of documents, and £5 each time a document is inspected. Barclays charges £5 a quarter for open envelopes stored in a strong-room, while inspections are free. Midland charges £7.50 a year, and £15 for two or more documents. Natwest charges £5 a year to store a sealed envelope.

Societies transport home loans abroad

By LINDSAY COOK

THE flat housing market in Britain and the approach of 1992 is encouraging building societies and banks to look further afield for mortgage business.

Next week the Woolwich building society will sign an agreement with Bernese Assicurazioni and Bernese Vita, the Italian insurers, which will open up the country's mortgage market to the society.

Through Woolwich Spa, its subsidiary based in Milan, the society will grant mortgages to Italians wanting mortgages. These will not be funded by British savings but through the wholesale markets.

Mortgages will be sold through 125 tied agents of the two insurance companies, which are subsidiaries of Berner, the Swiss group.

The Abbey National began offering endowment mortgages in France this week, after the purchase of FicoFrance, the French mortgage lender, in January. It is the first mortgage loan company to offer endowments in France.

It also wants to introduce the Italian housing market to

the insurance-backed loans and is negotiating with an insurance company to introduce endowments there later in the year.

The former building society set up a mortgage loan company in Italy a year ago. Abbey National Mumui is also based in Milan. The Abbey already has a Spanish subsidiary, which was its first European development.

The Royal Bank of Scotland and Banco Santander, its Spanish partner, are offering a mortgage package for people buying residential property in Spain.

Spanish Gold includes surveys, conveyancing and general support until the property is bought. The loans will be available to both British and Spanish buyers.

The Halifax building society is also studying the opportunities in Europe but to date has only provided services for the armed forces on the Rhine. It is expected to make announcements soon.

Next week the Scarborough building society is expected to unveil a joint venture with a Dutch bank.

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Knight Williams

JUNIOR 150

FAMILY MONEY

EXISTING building society borrowers who are paying higher rates than new homebuyers may be able to get the interest rate reduced and a refund of the additional interest charged since the summer of 1985.

Stephen Edell, the building societies ombudsman, detailed the case of a borrower who was charged 1.75 per cent more than new borrowers in his annual report published this week.

The borrower had taken out his mortgage at a time when the society charged 1.75 per cent over its base rate on endowment loans above £25,000. The society had, along with others, subsequently abolished the interest rate differential for new mortgages over £25,000, but it did not reduce the complainant's interest rate.

The society later scrapped the extra interest charged for endowment mortgages for all borrowers and reduced his mortgage payments by that amount.

The borrower then asked for the rate to be further reduced to the society's current base rate, and it agreed to do so. Other borrowers who are still paying mortgages at higher than the standard rates, because their loans were deemed to be large when the took them out, should also try to get their payments reduced.

The current unhealthy state of the mortgage market might encourage lenders to reduce interest rates to existing borrowers in this situation. They would not want to lose customers to other lenders who are offering discounts or fixed rate mortgages to new borrowers. It is cheaper for a lender to keep an existing borrower than to recruit a new one.

In the case detailed the customer complained to the

Ombudsman cuts the cost of mortgages

Lindsay Cook reports on how the building societies watchdog has been dealing with complaints

ombudsman that he should receive a refund of the extra interest paid.

Mr Edell decided the society was not guilty of unfair treatment in not voluntarily reducing the agreed interest rate. He then discovered that there was a provision in the mortgage deed forbidding the society from increasing the interest rate above that charged on similar new advances and ordered a refund.

Most borrowers are unaware of the details in their mortgage deeds but should be sent a copy if they request it from their society. They might also discover from the deeds whether the society charges redemption interest when borrowers transfer their loans.

The amounts are usually up to three months' interest for repayment in the first five years.

Mr Edell said that those societies who make such a charge claim that more than half the societies do, but actually represented

BRIEFINGS

● Kleinwort Benson has launched a cash unit trust to invest in high interest building society accounts, bank deposits and the money markets.

Like other cash trusts, there are no initial charges and the annual management charge is 0.5 per cent. The minimum initial lump sum investment is £500, and the minimum for savers is £25 a month. Money can be withdrawn without penalty, as long as £100 remains invested.

● School leavers who open a card plus account with National Westminster Bank will be given a free record voucher worth up to £7 and five £1 vouchers to be spent on record or compact discs at WH Smith.

Card plus includes a cash-dispenser card, and a cheque book on request. There is no minimum balance and interest is paid at 6 per cent a year.

● The latest in a flood of dread disease insurance products has been launched by Friends Provident.

The new critical illness protection plan is designed to pay a lump-sum on diagnosis of any of the four major killer diseases — heart attack, stroke, cancer and coronary disease. The typical cost for £30,000

cover for a non-smoking male aged 30 is £22.13 a month.

● Scottish Provident has launched a new range of pensions which displays its charges clearly. The Accolade range includes group and personal pensions, along with a plan for the self-employed.

Five new pension funds being introduced take in America, Europe and the Far East. A worldwide performance fund and a blue chip fund complete the package.

● One in fifteen car drivers will suffer from a broken windscreen this year, making insurance policies which cover the risk all the more attractive. Preferred Insurance, which specialises in motor claims, will pay the full cost of replacing a windscreen without the £25 excess charged on many policies.

● A guide on independent taxation for married couples has been published by NM Financial Management. It analyses the new tax regime introduced on April 6, and looks at some of the ways around capital gains tax, inheritance tax and mortgage tax relief. The guide is most useful to retired couples and non-working wives.

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Stephen Edell: help with complaints against societies

Mr Edell welcomed the proposal of the Jack Committee on banking services law that losses should be limited to £50 when a card is fraudulently used unless the customer was careless. This should eventually become law.

The ombudsman received 2,572 complaints during the year, an increase of 990. The Abbey National flotation accounted for 548, but most of these were outside the ombudsman's powers.

Mr Edell said that he had dealt with a number of cases of theft where the only rational

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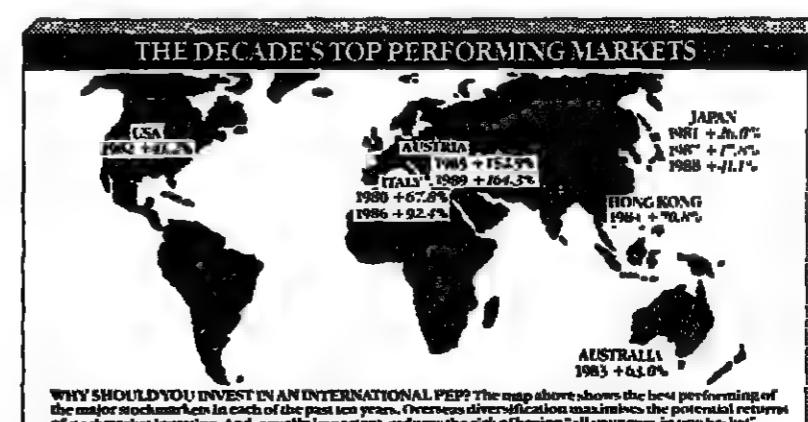
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Source: Datamark

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FAMILY MONEY

ERM could boost foreign exchange mortgages

Currency club offers hope for cheap loans

By RUPERT BRUCE

THE failure of low-interest foreign currency mortgages to make an impact on the UK mortgage market could change when Britain joins the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM).

The high risk associated with such loans should be reduced and mortgages in European currency units (Ecu) may become common.

Foreign currency mortgages are currently up to 6 per cent cheaper than UK loans, but if the foreign currency rises against sterling the size of the mortgage debt increases.

Consequently, the market has grown very little since these mortgages were first marketed in 1983. Last year, foreign currency mortgages accounted for only £200 million of the £60 billion lent to British homeowners, says John Charcol, the mortgage broker.

Some unscrupulous mortgage brokers have emphasised the short term gains to clients. What they have often not explained sufficiently is that if the mark or yen rose against sterling, the size of the mort-



Thatcher pressure

gage would also rise.

Michael Petley, managing director of ECU Group, the currency managers, looks after the foreign currency exposure for the clients of 470 mortgage brokers.

He was so worried in 1988 by the way these products were being sold that he wrote to the trade department and went to see the Association of Futures Brokers and Dealers to ask for some form of regulation.

"Mortgage brokers were trying to sell a product that was outside their areas of expertise," said Mr Petley.

Foreign currency mortgages needed to be managed from day to day by foreign currency experts and most mortgage brokers had little idea how a currency behaves, he said.

Many mortgage brokers sold client mortgages denominated in Ecu in 1989, on the premise that as a basket of European currencies it would be stable and safe.

Much to their surprise these mortgage-holders had had a bumpy ride. The Ecu has a 30 per cent weighting in the deutschmark, which has had a helter skelter ride in the last year as sentiment on German unity has switched between euphoria and pessimism.

Mr Petley said many naive homeowners had taken out these mortgages for the wrong reason. They wanted an interest rate saving whereas they should have sought to reduce the size of their mortgage through a depreciation in the foreign currency against sterling. The government has a

choice of letting sterling fluctuate within either a 2.25 per cent or 6 per cent band.

Jonathan Hoffman, Credit Suisse First Boston's European economist, said: "I think that Mrs Thatcher would prefer 6 per cent but there will be a lot of pressure from other Europeans that we should join a 2.25 per cent. And the Bank of England would probably prefer 2.25 per cent."

"The earlier we join, the more likely 6 per cent is. One can see a trade off in Mrs Thatcher's mind," he said.

A 6 per cent band would

obviously give greater room for movement between sterling and other ERM currencies. But eventually the pound will have to adopt the standard 2.25 per cent band, allowing it to swing in value by 5 per cent.

This would lessen the risk of a mortgage in an ERM currency, while reducing the potential reward in terms of currency gains.

It would also reduce the short term reward for those who take out these mortgages for interest rate savings. Once

we have joined the EMS both inflation and interest rates should start falling in Britain. Ecu mortgages may become more sensible than in sterling. Mr Petley predicts that many European companies will pay for everything in Ecu, including wages.

"Within five years an Ecu earner could become the norm. Then an Ecu loan will essentially be risk free."

Those who are familiar enough with the foreign exchange markets to risk putting their house on it will still be able to borrow in currencies outside the ERM, like US dollars or Japanese yen.

John Charcol claims to have captured the biggest slice of the foreign currency mortgage market in 1988 before they stopped advertising because there were too many "cowboys" coming in. They will start marketing a new range of foreign currency mortgages at the beginning of next month.

The three new products will be actively managed by the ECU Group, whereas the 1988 range was not. In addition, they will be directed at financially educated homeowners.

Borrowers will have to earn at least £40,000, and will only be able to borrow up to one and a half times the first income. Loans of up to 70 per cent of the property value will be available.

They will also have to sign disclaimers saying they are aware of the risk involved.

Exchange control benefits unit trusts

By LINDSAY COOK

SOME unit trust and personal equity plan investors are receiving the benefit of finer exchange rates since Fidelity took over its foreign exchange transactions from trustees.

The investment group estimates that on its unit trusts alone it saves £4 million to £5 million a year by seeking the best rates on offer instead of taking those available through the trustees of its funds.

In addition the group gains about £1 million by making sure the money is always working and never remains uninvested overnight.

Mary Blair, product development director, said: "The savings go to the funds and benefit unit-holders. How much they receive will vary from fund to fund. It could add 0.4 per cent to the annual performance of an overseas fund which is actively traded. The average improvement would be about 0.2 per cent a year."

Fidelity uses Citibank, Chase Manhattan and Clydesdale as trustees and they have accepted the group transferring its foreign exchange in-house. Unit trust groups who use the trustee departments of the Big Four banks might find it more difficult to make the change.

Miss Blair said: "So far as I know we are the only group to take foreign exchange in-house. It gives us the choice of all the banks every day so that we can get the best rates. We have only been able to do it since we introduced the new form of trust deeds."

"The estimates of the saving were made by the treasury department in March. They checked what the best rates were each day and calculated the difference, if any, between these and the rates being offered by a fund's trustees."

Fidelity is to launch an international personal equity plan (pep) next month, which will be able to take advantage of the foreign exchange savings on half of its unit trust investments.

The international pep trust will have up to half its assets invested in an actively managed portfolio of international shares. The rest will be invested in UK shares, with an emphasis on companies which generate a large proportion of their earnings overseas.

The trust has an initial fee of 5.25 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent. The group already has £100 million invested in peps.

Recourse for tourists hit by high rates

By BARBARA ELLIS



Creditable: banks may help with volatile exchange rates

the Visa card issuers in Britain.

But currencies can move substantially in much less than 45 days and two of the main Visa operators, Barclaycard and TSB Trustcard say they will consider compensating cardholders who suffer any significant exchange rate loss because of delayed action by a merchant.

But both banks reserve the right to their own definition of what is significant, making it clear that this will vary from case to case.

A reader in Perthshire who

used his Trustcard in Canada last November to buy Can\$1,700 (£365) of airline tickets claimed to have suffered "quite considerably" because the exchange rate had moved against him by 5 cents by the time the airline lodged the vouchers 28 days later.

Trustcard was un-

sympathetic. Jack Large, managing director, pointed out that although the movement in the exchange rate had cost the reader £7.56 in total, the 28 days of interest-free credit were worth at least as much.

Mr Large said the reader's

experience was very unusual, noting that merchants are not paid until they submit their vouchers to the local banks and so have no incentive to delay.

"With any form of money exchange such as travellers cheques, cash, or Eurocheques there is always the possibility of losing out on exchange rate fluctuations," said Mr Large.

Even with the best operating regulations there would always be isolated situations which caused concern, he said. Had the reader suffered significant losses as a result of the way transactions were handled, then recompense would have been seriously considered.

Spokeswoman for Barclaycard and Trustcard pointed out that cardholders run a two-way risk on foreign currency transactions and could well make a profit if the pound strengthened before the transaction was processed in Britain.

A Lloyds Bank spokesman said Mastercard had no specific time limit for retailers to present transactions. They were simply required to present them promptly.

Mr Large said the reader's

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He put his shirt on the World Cup and his Mortgage in Europe



we have joined the EMS both inflation and interest rates should start falling in Britain.

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Those who are familiar enough with the foreign exchange markets to risk putting their house on it will still be able to borrow in currencies outside the ERM, like US dollars or Japanese yen.

John Charcol claims to have captured the biggest slice of the foreign currency mortgage market in 1988 before they stopped advertising because there were too many "cowboys" coming in. They will start marketing a new range of foreign currency mortgages at the beginning of next month.

The three new products will be actively managed by the ECU Group, whereas the 1988 range was not. In addition, they will be directed at financially educated homeowners.

Borrowers will have to earn at least £40,000, and will only be able to borrow up to one and a half times the first income.

Loans of up to 70 per cent of the property value will be available.

They will also have to sign disclaimers saying they are aware of the risk involved.

Mary Blair, product development director, said: "The savings go to the funds and benefit unit-holders. How much they receive will vary from fund to fund. It could add 0.4 per cent to the annual performance of an overseas fund which is actively traded. The average improvement would be about 0.2 per cent a year."

Fidelity uses Citibank, Chase Manhattan and Clydesdale as trustees and they have accepted the group transferring its foreign exchange in-house. Unit trust groups who use the trustee departments of the Big Four banks might find it more difficult to make the change.

Miss Blair said: "So far as I know we are the only group to take foreign exchange in-house. It gives us the choice of all the banks every day so that we can get the best rates. We have only been able to do it since we introduced the new form of trust deeds."

"The estimates of the saving were made by the treasury department in March. They checked what the best rates were each day and calculated the difference, if any, between these and the rates being offered by a fund's trustees."

Fidelity is to launch an international personal equity plan (pep) next month, which will be able to take advantage of the foreign exchange savings on half of its unit trust investments.

The international pep trust will have up to half its assets invested in an actively managed portfolio of international shares. The rest will be invested in UK shares, with an emphasis on companies which generate a large proportion of their earnings overseas.

The trust has an initial fee of 5.25 per cent and an annual management charge of 1.5 per cent. The group already has £100 million invested in peps.

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SATURDAY JUNE 16 1990

Smitten by the coarse of true love



Managers in industry and commerce will be thankful that June 16 has fallen on a Saturday this year. It is the opening day of the coarse fishing season, and traditionally one of the worst for absenteeism. This has much to do with the irresistible attraction of water to the angler and the less certain, but intriguing, lure of fish to bait.

During the past few weeks, the tackle has been checked, cleaned and assembled, a squirming multitude of maggots has been bred and bought, the groundbait prepared, a few new floats added to the collection and, as dusk settled on Britain last night, a mighty army was on the move.

Silently, its members homed in on their various stations. By a few minutes before zero hour they were positioned on their cushioned seats — some, of course, had been sitting there, guarding their chosen "swim", for hours — and staring out over night-blacked water. And then, precisely at midnight, hundreds of thousands of maggots and floats were simultaneously hurling through the air, to land with a firm plop in the nation's ponds and lakes.

By now, thousands of fish, from the giant carp to the diminutive but devilishly slippery bleak, will have fallen to the bait and begun their period of captivity in the keep net, prior to being released again.

For some enthusiasts the waiting since the end of the last season — midnight on March 14 — has been intolerable. Two weeks ago the lead story in *Angler's Mail* told of swoops by

Today, as the coarse fishing season opens, dedicated men such as Allan Haines (above), will be chasing the ultimate prey — and then throwing it back again. William Greaves reports

river bailiffs at two stillwater venues in the Thames region which resulted in more than a dozen anglers having their names taken for jumping the gun.

By popular consensus, the coarse fishing bug pumps through the veins of three million British citizens and final proof, if any be necessary, that it really can become an obsession was provided not so long ago in a serious crash on the M4. Allan Haines, a former editor of *Angling Times* and one of the country's best-known fishermen, says: "I left my wife and two daughters stretched out on the hard shoulder — they were shocked and, to be honest, I didn't know how badly they were hurt — and ran back to my car. Two or three times I tried to reach through the flames, until the firemen threw me out of the way. They didn't understand, you see, that my float box was in there and it had taken me a lifetime to collect it." Even today he looks mildly bemused whenever anybody suggests that he might just have had his priorities in the wrong order.

A good-looking swim duly chosen, the 46-year-old winner of BBC2's *Hooked* competition, fought out between 20 of Britain's top anglers, began to pick what he needed for the hours ahead from a carful of equipment.

Eschewing some of his more specialised and expensive tackle, including an 11 metre carbon fibre

Haines limbering up for the months ahead. Unfamiliar with the terrain, his practised eye roamed the margin of the water, looking for the most likely swim. "I'd say it will be mixed fishing here: roach, rudd and maybe some bream, perhaps perch and even some carp," he said.

"What we're looking for is perhaps some weeds or an overhanging tree — any reason for a fish being there." A spot on the far side of the pond took his eye — but not for long. My photographer colleague, scouting the neighbourhood for a likely camera angle, had jumped down on the bank. "We won't catch anything there now," Mr Haines said, surprisingly mildly. "Every fish around will have registered that bump. It doesn't matter how loud you shout, but heavy movement is fatal and the trick is to keep off the skyline — they've got surprisingly good eyesight."

A good-looking swim duly chosen, the 46-year-old winner of BBC2's *Hooked* competition, fought out between 20 of Britain's top anglers, began to pick what he needed for the hours ahead from a carful of equipment.

The dedication of the coarse angler is legendary, no more so than in the field of the big fish specialist, where the total weight of a day's catch is meaningless and the single-minded pursuit of the big 'un' is the be-all and end-all of life. It is not unknown for such a man to spend weeks and months patrolling, climbing trees and studying the moods and movements of one fish before making his detailed plans for the moment of truth.

"I've been walking around all during the close season," said Peter Stone, an Oxfordshire fish taxidermist by occupation and big fish hunter by preoccupation, "because that's when their mind's more on love and they show themselves a bit more. There are some waters which smell of big fish, you know. A friend of mine walked down the Evenlode river, in Oxfordshire, a year or two back and told me he

pole worth more than £1,000, his selection finally took shape: One rod (£160), one fixed-spool reel (£35), 2lb 15oz breaking-strain line (£2.50), a pint and a half of white, red and bronze maggots (£2.50 a pint), boxes of non-toxic weights (£2.50 a box), one keep net (£15-£20) and one landing net (£12), a boxful of floats (50p-£1.50 each), some hooks (10p-12p each), groundbait catapult (£5), and a bag of groundbait (£2). It took him half an hour to set up his stall.

Nothing defines an obsessive national pastime more eloquently than the lengths to which its addicts will go to steal a march over their fellows. Although the figure of three million British anglers is commonly quoted, about a million of those fish regularly through rain and shine, spending £70 million a year on tackle, £10 million on clothing and £5 million on footwear.

So quick are they to identify any refinement which might just tilt the balance in their favour that Shimano, a Japanese firm unknown to British anglers until four years ago, now boasts 80 per cent of the top end of the reel market.

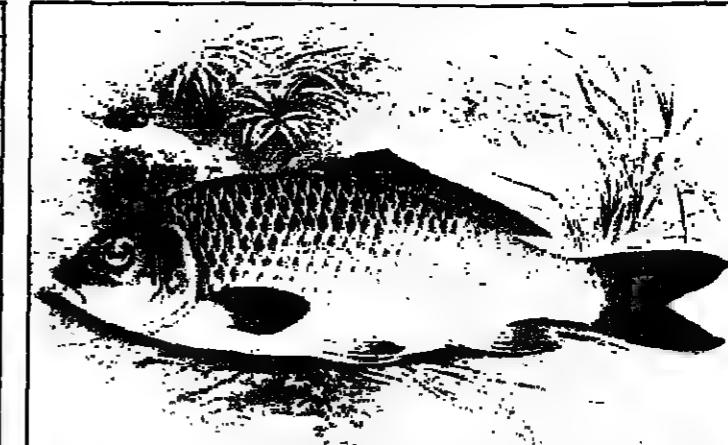
John Loftus, the firm's UK managing director, explains the dramatic breakthrough: "The company specialised in cycle gears and braking systems and realised that those were the two main requirements of a good fishing reel. For some years the leading manufacturers had been undercutting each other to maintain their share of the market, and we reckoned that they had left a gap in that area where quality, rather than price, was the most important factor."

So, identifying the addict's ability to find the wherewithal for anything he craves, Shimano manufactured reels costing anything up to £600, and crept away with a prize catch.

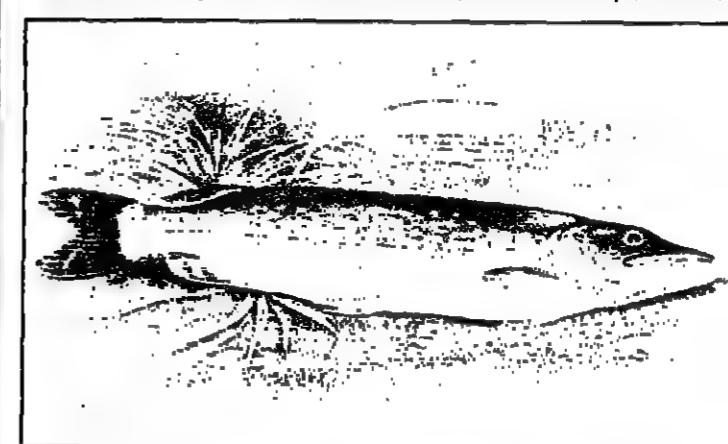
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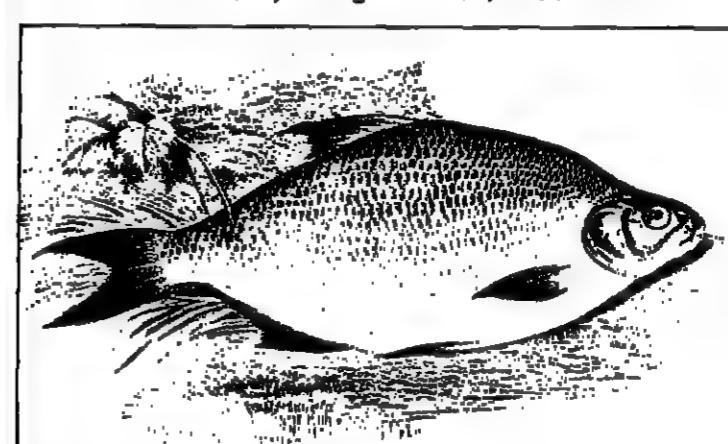
PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRYN COLTON

Illustrations by A.F. Lydon from *British Fresh-Water Fishes* (Webb & Bower)

Carp: (first record) 44lb R. Walker 1952 Redmire Pool, Hereford; (present record) 51lb 8oz C. Yates 1986, Redmire Pool, Hereford



Pike: 37lb 8oz C. Warwick 1944, Hampshire Avon; 44lb 14oz M.G. Linton 1987, Ardleigh Reservoir, Colchester



Common Bream: 13lb 8oz, E.G. Costin 1945, Chiddington Castle lake, Kent; 16lb 6oz, A. Bromley 1986, private fishery, Staffs



Perch: 4lb 12oz S.F. Baker 1962, Oulton Broad, Suffolk; 5lb 9oz J. Shaylor 1985, private lake, Kent

Statistics: British Record (rod-caught) Fish Committee of the National Anglers' Council

(Continued overleaf)

5



Setting out the stall: rod and reel, nets and bait maggots are among the coarse fisherman's essential tools



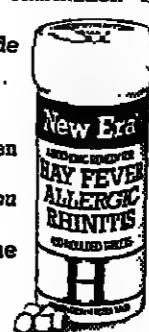
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A CHILDHOOD: GARY LINEKER

'Football was the only thing I ever wanted to do as a kid'

by Ray Connolly

When Gary Lineker was eight, he was taken to Wembley for the first time to see his side, Leicester City, play in the Cup Final against Manchester City. Leicester lost and he cried all the way home. Peter Shilton was playing in goal for Leicester that day, as he is playing in goal for England during this World Cup. 21 years on, he and Lineker are sharing a room in Sardinia. They always share during England matches.

The boy Lineker would no doubt have been astonished had he been told that such a thing might happen. But then, he has been surprised by everything that has happened to him. An extremely ambitious and intensely dedicated footballer, he has never suffered from overconfidence.

He did not expect to be taken on as an apprentice by Leicester City, did not expect to be asked to sign to be a professional, nor to play in the first team or even play for England. He never worried about these things, although he wanted them.

So far, virtually all of Lineker's life has been football. His grandfather was once a skilful player and played with top professionals while in the army, but because of the family fruit stall on Leicester market he never had the opportunity to pursue football as a career. There was no money in it in those days.

"My granddad would always come to watch me from when I was about eight. Both my parents did, too. My dad would often take our entire team to the fixtures in his fruit van."

Theirs was a comfortable family with a third-generation fruit stall, which provided season tickets to Leicester City and annual holidays in Spain, but involved hard and unsocial working hours. At the busy times of Christmas and summer Gary would be expected to help out, getting up at 4am to go to the fruit wholesalers.

There were two sons, Gary and Wayne, who is 17 months younger. Both showed great sporting ability, both were taken on at 13 to train with Leicester City and both might have been top-class cricketers. But it was never as important to Wayne as it was to Gary. Wayne, Gary's biggest supporter who suffers appalling nerves before every England match, manages Gary's bar in Tenerife.

By the time Gary was 11 it must have been evident that he was a special talent, for when he passed the 11-plus the family moved house so he could go to a grammar school which played soccer rather than rugby.

"Wayne and I would play endlessly in the garden. We made a terrible mess of it. I was usually in goal and Wayne would be dashing about with the ball. We'd have our own commentaries going like all kids do: 'And it's Weiler to Wellington... he strikes it... and it's a GOAL!' When it got too dark to play, we would arrange lights in our bedroom to shine down on the lawn so we could carry on at night."

Not surprisingly, school work came second to sport (although he was to pass four O-levels). Remembering virtually nothing from earliest childhood, his first recollection is that at the age of eight the school team he was playing in, Calcot Junior School, won 2-1 in a final and they got a cup. He and Wayne scored the goals.

By the time he was 11 he was also playing for the City of Leicester Schoolboys and was scoring a lot of goals, as well as belonging to a youth team, Aylestone Park.

"I wasn't outstanding like some kids, I didn't get into the England schoolboys' team or anything, but I was spotted at 13 by a scout for Leicester City. The funny thing was he knew my granddad, who asked him what he was doing at the match. Granddad was very pleased when he was told it was me who was being looked at."

From 13 to 16 he trained twice a week with Leicester City. "You sign schoolboy forms which attach you to the club. I'd go Tuesday and Thursday after school from five until seven. It was great experience, mainly shooting practice and five-a-sides. The chap teaching us had been a forward so he was particularly keen on shooting.



Lineker, centre, as schoolboy cricketer

In that way they could keep an eye on the promising types.

"On Fridays I'd train for cricket, that went right through the year (twice a week in the summer with Leicestershire), and on Saturdays and Sundays I'd play football. So it didn't leave much time for anything else."

How far he might have gone as a cricketer with Leicestershire will never be known, because at 16 he was signed up as an apprentice by Leicester City football club.

"I don't think I missed anything growing up because sport was the only thing I ever wanted to do. If I wasn't training I'd be out in the garden playing, or watching Leicester City or down at Grace Road watching Leicestershire."

The life of the football apprentice is one of discipline and skiving. "You start by getting everything ready for the professionals. They started at 10, so we'd be there at nine, getting the kit out and putting it by everybody's peg, cleaning the boots and making sure that everything was spick and span."

"When they went off to train, we'd get changed and train as well, but finish a bit before them so we'd be ready when they threw their dirty, smelly kit on the floor for us to pick up and sort out."

"We'd all have our specific jobs. Mine was looking after the dressing room, mopping the floor, doing all the brass and taking care of the toilets, which wasn't very nice."

"All the apprentices would train in the afternoon, as well, and do any jobs needed, like painting the gym, that sort of thing. The worst thing was brushing about 2ft of slushy melting snow off a hot-air blanket they put over the ground

at Leicester one winter. It was awful. "It's hard work being a professional, but it doesn't do you any harm. It's good for discipline. And you need discipline in life as well as in the game."

At 18 he turned professional. This is often the make-or-break moment in the lives of young footballers. Out of the ten or so apprentices, usually only one or two are chosen as having potential and they await the call to the manager's office with trepidation.

Sometimes boys who will become great players are rejected at this stage (Graeme Souness and Peter Beardsley, for example) but usually when the manager says, "son, we're letting you go", it can be the end of professional hopes.

None of the apprentices who started with Gary Lineker are in the game at any high level.

"It's hard. There aren't many players who really earn a decent living at the game. There's a lot of disappointment for a lot of people."

Lineker thinks he was lucky. He was also completely dedicated. "They were worried about me at first because I was very light. When I joined Leicester I was only 5ft 6in and 9 stone wet through, so they put me on a high-protein diet and had me lifting weights before and after training every day."

"I worked. I'm now 5ft 10, and I weigh 12 stone 8lb."

One of the problems for many young players is boredom, for after training in the morning their days and evenings are their own. Lineker solved that at the snooker table.

"I've never been a night-club sort of person and I don't have more than a glass or so of wine. I know a lot of young players can be led astray. So I used to kill time by playing snooker."

"I always had girlfriends, but by the time I was in the first team and becoming known I was courting Michelle (now his wife) pretty heavily, and that didn't do me any harm."

They met when he was 19 and she was 15, and both were surprised to discover that each of their grandparents were not only Leicester City season ticket holders and life-long supporters, but next-door neighbours and close friends.

When Gary was first taken to Michelle's home, her father remarked: "He's a nice enough lad, but he'll never make a footballer."

Now they have a splendid end-of-terrace Regency house in a fashionable part of central London, not too far from Lord's, which is handy on a sunny day. Michelle, who trained as a dancer, watches every game, half-worried that he might get hurt.

So far he has been extraordinarily lucky with injuries. Two years ago he was laid low with hepatitis but there have been no bad fractures.

"Of course it still hurts to get the ball in the goalies. It happened at Spurs against Arsenal last season. I was in the wall for the free kick and it really caught me. I went down. It's agony and everyone knows what's wrong and they're all laughing at you. It aches for ages afterwards."

At 28, his years as a top striker are limited. As a boy, he always felt that if he could not get ahead by playing the game he would like to become a sports journalist instead. He may well have a bright future lying ahead of him now as a television sports personality.



Gary Lineker: "It's hard work being a professional footballer, but it's good for discipline. And you need discipline in life"

Continued from previous page
ball) — a monster of 35lb 12oz — and he "couldn't take the hook out because my hand was shaking and my heart was thumping."

"A few years before he died, the great Dick Walker was landing a big carp when a man came up behind him. The chap said to him: 'I'm surprised, after all these years, to see your hands shaking, and the great man replied: 'When they don't, I know it's time to give up.'"

Mr Walker was one of the involuntary actors in a drama which split the British coarse angling fraternity nine years ago. The story exemplifies the fervour which surrounds this world of mystique and legend.

For many years Mr Walker had pursued a carp known to him and everyone else as Clarissa, and the last time he caught it he became the undisputed all-time carp record-holder. Undisputed, that is, until in 1980 Chris Yates landed a 51lb mirror carp, undoubtedly the heaviest ever, and duly claimed the record.

"There are a number of regulations governing records," said Peter Tombleson of the National Anglers' Council. "One is that, in order to qualify, a fish has to be examined by a representative of the British Record Fish Committee before it is returned to the water. Unfortunately, when Mr Yates caught his carp, the local rules stated that no one else could enter the fishing grounds, so no such examination could be made."

The BRFC had to stick to its rules, but the National Association of Specialist Anglers recognised the fish. So, until just a couple of months ago, there were two lists of record holders. Now Mr Yates' fish is unanimously recognised as Britain's biggest-ever freshwater coarse fish.

One other outcome of the amalgamation is that an 8lb club, caught by a Mr G. F. Smith, has also been officially recognised for the first time, 77 years after Mr Smith's

moment of triumph. Such anomalies only serve to add to the sport's fascination. "It's unique," said Ken Collin, a tackle dealer in Sutton, Surrey, and one of the sport's most famous practitioners.

"Not only does it unite brain surgeon and dustman, but, no matter how many years you're at it, you never come across the same set of circumstances twice. The venue's different, the temperature and the clarity of the water are different, the wind is different, the flow is different."

"You can take a branch from a tree, attach £5-worth of lead tackle — hook, split shot and float — and catch fish. Yet the refinements are endless. People argue over the best flavours for their bait — outlandish concoctions such as curvy, luncheon meat, strawberry, chocolate, you name it — and every time they come into the tackle shop they'll walk away with another few floats to add to their collection. Good-looking floats don't catch fish, they seem to think in a non-partial, global sort of way."

Most annoyingly, they were not chic, rich, matching-luggage people — the kind for whom the phrase "economy ticket" is a foreign language. Even the Australian hostess laughed at the Italian jokes, knew how to use basil in a daring way and was generally more European than I.

"Listen mate," I wanted to say. "My background is Glaswegian and Lithuanian (I nearly said Russian). I was European before I was born."

But there was no point. I was sure by dusk of what no amount of passport stamps and Benetton knitwear could conceal: I am and always will be irretrievably local.

A sudden, almost angry, flick of his carp sent another salvo of ground bait winging across the surface. Once again the rod prescribed its expert arc and a hand came up to shield his eyes from the glare of the sun. The float located, he became a study in immobility. "I've got something on," he said at last. "Not much — here it comes — ah, a little roach. Nothing to write home about, I'm afraid."

Perhaps not, but around the still and moving waters of Britain there were plenty more fish like him. And they were the real bait which lured all those thousands of men and women to last night's sleepless and ever-hopeful vigil.

STEPHANIE CALMAN

Local body in identity crisis

because the European students handing them out are not familiar with the phrase, "No thank you, I live here."

So I stuff them in the bin, winching at the waste of paper. (I tried recycling them as shopping lists, but the Greek check-out woman at Safeway found one on the conveyor belt and asked me at great length if I'd been home to Cyprus this year.)

As far as I can tell, emotionally it will make little difference whether Europe is a single market, an enormous shopping centre (more likely), or a row of stalls up the Goldhawk Road. Most people I meet have no idea what it means.

Half my London friends, after all, are still coping with the trauma of being made 081. But that's far more European than I.

"Listen mate," I wanted to say. "My background is Glaswegian and Lithuanian (I nearly said Russian). I was European before I was born."

But there was no point. I was sure by dusk of what no amount of passport stamps and Benetton knitwear could conceal: I am and always will be irretrievably local.

Having faced my disability, the question is, should I care? Will I end up in the care of therapeutic professionals?

"Your cultural counsellor will see you now, Ms Calperton," and as a silhouetted figure in documentaries: "I tried, but I just couldn't stop buying English magazines from the bottom shelf," doomed to think and write in just the one language forever?

Probably, and so what? I do not feel part of the European community, but then I have never felt part of the Great British one either.

For a start, nobody believes

my elders would have me believe, is not something which we need to learn about from continents or Amazon, but is a great institution which (like the empire and home baking) once held the country together and has now crumbled away.

It looked after people who rallied round, pulled together and, oh yes, made their own fun. They did not need youth television, social workers or personal hygiene products in a range of five fragrances.

People were so much like each other, they were practically another species. You knew your neighbour, Oh, really? And did that include newly arrived Commonwealth members, gentlemen who preferred other gentlemen and women who became "mothers without managing to be wives first?"

Now society at large tolerates a wider range of behaviour. But communities still demand a deal of conformity as part of the membership price. At best, this means losing the nice black passport. At worst, it involves giving up these parts of your identity considered too "odd" for the comfort of everyone else.

The reason I do not mind not feeling part of any community is that I am somewhat doubtful of the whole notion, not least because I'm fed up with being told that, like tomatoes and shop service, they were vastly superior before I was born.

The community, some of

MECK MALLAM



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EARTH-SAVERS

A paler shade of goodly green

Next week the big and the small of British industry will be exhibiting their wares at the Green Show. Sally Brompton asks: are they really green?

Abizarre collection of commercial, political and philosophical interests will meet in Birmingham next week to demonstrate their varying degrees of commitment towards saving the earth. The five-day Green Show has attracted 250 exhibitors ranging in diversity from Animal Aid to Zanussi and from Friends of the Earth to British Nuclear Fuels.

For some the show is an opportunity to air and share their consciences. For others it is a chance to sell their products under a fashionable umbrella. "It would be wrong to say that all the exhibitors are squeaky clean and environmentally sound," admits the show's organiser, John Talbot, of Reed Exhibition Companies, who claims that the Green Show is the first of its kind in the world.

"I think a lot of the exhibitors are doing this for marketing purposes as much as any other reason."

Yet the fact that companies such as Rover, Volvo, Tesco, AEG, Proctor & Gamble and TSB are taking part in an event which only five years ago would have been considered a platform for extremists and weirdos, is an indication of the acceptance by big business that future profits, if not survival, depend on turning green.

John Leach, a 50-year-old potter, was doubtful whether he qualified to take part in the show. "I feel I really wasn't green enough in my own life," he says. He is particularly interested in finding "some sort of burner which I can fit economically at the base of my chimney to burn off the black stuff".

Since agreeing to appear at the show, Mr Leach, grandson of the potter Bernard Leach, has endeavoured to drive his car no faster than 60mph and has discovered an environmentally friendly powder for his energy-consuming dishwasher. He has also attempted to compensate for the fact that he fuels his car with timber off-cuts by buying nine acres of woodland and planting 1,500 broadleaf trees.

Not all the exhibitors are so conscientious. Roger Nicholson, aged 48, a franchise holder in South Wales for Singer sewing machines, admits that he will be at the show "because you have to go after the business these days". He has yet to decide on his response to possible



Turning the corner: John Leach, a potter, worries whether he is green enough. So he is planting 1,500 broadleaf trees on his Somerset acres

questions about the greenness of his products. "We're still working on that," he says.

Mr Talbot believes that the motives of the exhibitors are unimportant. "The event is only a catalyst of what people want to do," he says. "We're putting together a lot of companies who want to put across green credentials. I don't care who jumps on the bandwagon as long as they are doing something."

He says that, merely by participating in the show, even the uncommitted are "helping to make it more successful and helping to support smaller companies and environmental and conservation groups who are taking part".

After some agonising, Mr Talbot's 12-man advisory board allowed British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) to participate on the grounds that it is "promoting green credentials and that it is up to the public to decide how green those credentials are".

The decision caused the show to lose the potential support of about 40 darker green companies which objected to sharing hall space with the energy company.

BNFL, which is fielding a team of engineers and chemists under the banner, "We have an open door, do you have an open mind?", argues that nuclear power makes less of an

impact on global warming than other forms of energy.

Faced with the prospect of some pithy comments from fellow exhibitors and the public, BNFL's spokesman says: "I think we would be surprised if the people manning the stand did not have busy and lively time. We would certainly expect some positive reactions."

Those reactions may be heightened by Mr Talbot's plan to include in the show catalogue a list of suggested questions which the public can ask exhibitors about their environmental claims. And Friends of the Earth (FoE) will be encouraging visitors to nominate companies, products and advertisements for their "Green Con" awards, one of which was last year given to BNFL.

"I think the public is cynical and not going to be taken in by unsubstantiated claims," says Andrew Lees, the FoE's 41-year-old campaign coordinator. "Companies cannot get out of tight corners by slick public relations talk. Green froth is not going to save the world and the public knows."

Anticipating the thrust of public feeling, the organisers of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* stand have checked on whether the 32-volume tome is printed on recycled paper (it isn't), but the forests from which the paper comes are re-

planted and managed, the company's spokesman says.

With equal forethought, the sales team will not be taking along its £4,000 set bound in Moroccan goatskin, but will be seeking green buyers for the popular version which comes in an environmentally questionable nitro-cellulose coating on a non-woven latex-saturated base, at a promotional price marginally less than the normal £1,298.

Roy Whearey, a 38-year-old former accountant whose Devon-based company, Dawn Awakening Music, produces tape recordings of new age Vangelis-type music, justifies his presence at the show saying that music helps listeners to become "peaceful within oneself".

Another exhibitor, Deryck Henry, aged 42, admits that his life-size, flying bird mobiles are not green products. "I'd like them to be, but I can't get recycled card of a good enough quality," he says. At the show, he will be launching an "environmentally friendly" 100 per cent cotton owl T-shirt, which he is "pretty sure" is made with natural dyes.

One of the show's advisory board members, John Elkington, director of the environmentalist consultancy, SustainAbility, and co-author of *The Green Consumer Guide*, which has sold more than

300,000 copies in Britain, acknowledges the risk of the unconverted majority becoming bored with the green lobby.

"The present level of media coverage is phenomenal, but it is becoming more critical and there is a fair amount of knocking copy. The next step is a slight dying away. The market and public opinion will be moving back towards a position where regulations and better enforcement of regulations will be the real driving force. However, for the next few years, public opinion will be the driving factor and that is why the Green Show is so important".

He predicts that by the end of the 1990s the green movement will be the dominant movement worldwide and will increasingly take on a spiritual dimension. "It has all the elements of a major religion," he says. At its most extreme, he envisages the emergence of a green fundamentalist group headed by a green Ayatollah — "somebody coming up at just the right time and presenting themselves as the solution to all our problems. I think that would be very dangerous, for the environmental movement as well as for industry and government".

The Green Show is at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from Wednesday to Sunday.

CHRISTOPHER JONES

OUTINGS

To celebrate the 400th anniversary of Wakehurst Place, between East Grinstead and Haywards Heath, East Sussex. Today, tomorrow. Tickets bookable for evening entertainment beginning at 7.30pm; car park open 6.30pm; £9 today, £8 tomorrow. Box office (0444 892669). Craft fair today and tomorrow 10am-6pm, £2.50, child £1.

HMS WARRIOR 1860 DISPLAYS: The Traditional Cutlass display team of HMS Sultan performs dances to the hompomp on the upper deck of this fine Victorian battleship. HMS Warrior 1860, Victory Gate, Portsmouth Historic Naval Base, Portsmouth (0705 291379). Today, 10.30am-5.30pm, last display 4pm, £3.30, child £1.80. Family ticket, two adults and two children £8.40.

COUNTRY CAMPERS: FAIRE: Family day out at this small working farm and farm museum. Organised by the Suffolk Young Farmers Club, the entertainments include marching bands, craft stalls and competitions, clay pigeon shooting, sheep shearing demonstrations, buggy/model car racing and sideshows. On the farm you can see a collection of agricultural machinery, watch the milking and the local heavy horses, the Suffolk Punches. Tea room and light refreshments.

Easton Farm Park, Easton, near Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Suffolk (0728 748475). Tomorrow 10am-5pm, £2.75, child 3-16 £1.80, under-5s free.

BIGGIN HILL AIR FAIR: Biggest, best known air display in the calendar, this year placing great emphasis on the 50th anniversary of Battle of Britain. Many exhibitions and displays on the ground, including military vehicles, classic cars, plus entertainments for children. Battle of Britain memorial service on both days at 10.45am, flying displays from 11.30am to 6.30pm. Full refreshments. Biggin Hill Airfield, Biggin Hill, Kent, 0959 722577. Today, tomorrow. Gates open 8am, £7, child £3. Car park free today, £3 tomorrow.

AUDLEY END MIDSUMMER PROM: Open air concert with the Wren Symphony Orchestra in the Capability Brown landscaped grounds of this Jacobean house, now run by English Heritage. The programme includes music by Walton, Arnold, Strauss, Coates, Sullivan, Delius and Borodin. Take picnic, seating, rug and refreshments. Food and wine on sale. Car park. Audley End, near Saffron Walden, Essex. (Information: 0898 202023; credit card box office 071 379 4444). Tomorrow, gates open 6pm, cars admitted from 4pm. Concert from 8pm. Tickets, bookable, £27.50, concessions £6.50.

SUMMER IN KNIGHTSBRIDGE: St Pauls Church fundraising festival. This morning at 11am a horn and piano recital with David Pyatt; this evening at 7.30pm a concert by the Schola Cantorum of Oxford. St Pauls Church, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, London SW1. Information and tickets 071 828 6430.

Judy Froshaug

SCHOOLS CHESS

Playing the music of the intellect

Chess can be the most exciting game in the world: an intellectual sport in which the players bring everything they can bear, in brains and will-power, to the struggle.

Chess is a game of ideas, an argument in which the strong ideas triumph. These ideas are both scientific (logical correctness) and artistic (the beauty and subtlety of the conceptions), qualities clearly evident in the best games played by the best players.

The scientific and artistic claims to chess can be argued by making an analogy with music, as follows: if acoustics is the science of sound then music reveals the artistic beauty of sound; similarly, if logic is the science of thought then chess reveals the beauty of thought.

This description comes from Oliver Ready, a 13-year-old pupil at Dulwich College Preparatory School, south London. The school is one of hundreds in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland which compete each year in *The Times* schools' championship, the longest

running sponsorship of chess in this country and regarded as the most successful breeding ground for our masters and grandmasters of the future.

This year, the closing stages of the championship will take place at London's Charing Cross Hotel on June 28 and 29. The four outstanding schools, which have qualified from a nationwide knockout competition, are Nottingham High School, Newcastle Royal Grammar School, Truro School and St Paul's School, London. Each team is composed of six young hopefuls.

Nottingham were runners-up to St Paul's in 1982 and 1985. The master in charge of chess, Dr John Swain, is confident of success, and the team's morale was boosted by wins over the past two years against Truro. Dr Swain feels that his boys are capable of beating the mighty St Paul's team "on the day", depending

on whether they hit form. The star player for Nottingham is 14-year-old Stephen Joseph, the Midlands under-18 champion. The rest of the team is evenly balanced and, says Liam Sewell, the 18-year-old captain, "we bat all the way down".

Newcastle have an impressive record in the championship, having won in 1984 and with a near monopoly on their zonal qualifying, which they have won for 14 years.

The master in charge is Edward Renshaw, who is assisted by Pauline Perlela. The team already holds a superior number of titles. Simon Florence won the 1988 national boys' club championship and Mark Davy, on board two, is the Northumbrian under-15 champion.

Truro are handicapped by the absence of their star player, 18-year-old Michael Adams, a grandmaster and the England team.

Raymond Keene

CAMPUS

Help students to help themselves

WE HEAR rather a lot about the demographic time bomb ticking away towards an era when there will be more jobs than qualified young people to fill them.

What we don't seem to hear enough about is sponsorship, at least for students in the arts. Scientists and engineers in particular, seem to find sponsors with comparative ease which means that they are usually guaranteed work during the summer vacation with a job offer when they have their degree.

The government has a strong interest in sponsorship which is linked to its overall ideology of self help and private enterprise. It runs a careers and occupational information centre which produces a brochure listing a wide range of sponsorship opportunities, but the choice available to arts students is very small.

At the moment there are probably more than enough arts students to fill the jobs available, so employers are

naturally reluctant to spend money or offer incentives. This won't necessarily be the case much longer. Companies and institutions could attract much goodwill, not to mention talented employees, if they started taking sponsorship seriously immediately.

Sarah Ebner (government and history) London School of Economics.

I HAVE nothing but admiration for Gary David Rawnsley (Campus, June 2), a second year undergraduate at Leeds University with Crohn's disease. He does, however, have a rare attribute among our generation, that many of us strive for, and may even never attain. This quality, is a single-mindedness and determination that is only possessed

by those individuals who can envisage exactly what they want and can see a clear path to their goal.

I, however, came to university without a positive direction, unsure of which course or career path to follow, thus leading to a lack of inspiration. I have skipped lectures, missed tutorials and crammed for exams and, yes, with hindsight, maybe this would have been different, but at the time motivation was lacking.

I have, however, learnt more from just being here, than any lecture or seminar that could have ever taught me and have really appreciated my university education. I have developed and changed and most definitely learnt by many mistakes.

Ellen Wallis (finalist) Manchester University

● In future the *Campus* column will appear in *The Times* in the *Education Pages* on Monday, starting June 25. All students in higher education are invited to submit articles which should be addressed to the *Education Editor*, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E19XN

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Ellen Wallis (finalist)



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EATING OUT

Jonathan Meades in ponytail land: a culinary quirk in Portobello Road and a butcher's delight in Smithfield

Synthetic home of the Unreal

Once upon a time, and that time was not so long ago, Portobello Road was teaming with Real People. The sort of people who committed real crimes, sold real drugs, drank real meths, snuffed real glue, had real problems (most of which devolved from their really real habits). Now? Well, it is too soon to announce the total diaspora of Real People but there are not nearly as many of them as there were: there has been a shift. The Real People, their German Shepherds and their bad complexions have tended to migrate north to the other side of Harrow Road: there are many tell-tale piles of curiously crushed Special Brew cans round Kensal and Warlock and Mortar in 081 land.

Into the gap left by the Reals have moved armies of Unreals, chimerical creatures with exotic names, things called lifestyles, hair-dos against nature, black clothes. The Reals had their caffs and pubs, though, of necessity, they did most of their bevvying in plain air. But the Unreals have hitherto had only the restaurant 192 as a place that was entirely their own, which is one reason that it is always packed. Otherwise they've had to share with the local Iberian population and the local West Indian population. Now they have a place that is so wholeheartedly Unreal it might be the product of microcosmic market research. This, no doubt, is why it is called The Market Bar.

The premises used to house a very Real pub, which I never dared to enter. It is, to say the least, a measure of the extent to which things have changed in W11. The restaurant is just about the last word in everything, a treasure house of all that was fashionable at, say, 3.45pm at the end of a long lunch (in 192 maybe) on June 16 1989. I do not intend that that should sound like a sneer by the way. The Market Bar is nothing if not an impressive feast of interior design, or maybe opera design is more the ticket. The theatricality is total, convincing, and ingeniously realised. It is a work of imaginative bricolage, boldly baroque, generally Hispanic, but not literal; it is far from being a pastiche of anything in particular. It is reminiscent of a painting by Edward Burne-Jones called *Mexican Church*. It is synthetic in the best sense. There are fretted wood screens, candelabra with so much wax hanging from them they're like



Old English sheepdogs, wrought metal chairs, walls painted to resemble stone, wooden crackle-effect floorboards and, on the ground floor, massive and threatening curtains. Here is somewhere, one feels, that Erol Flynn might have swung across, épée in hand, in the film of a Sabatini bodice-ripper. It is all more than enough to keep the Reals out.

Bear here does not come from cans or sleeves but from Mexican bottles with a pig of lime stuffed in the neck — this is the way Unreals like the stuff it is, supposedly, a world away from lager 'n' lime. This is the way men with ponytails take their beer: it very likely shows that they care. Care about what? In our New Age one does not have to care about anything. To care is enough.

You get the picture? It is more or less repeated by the mineral water. This is called Hildon and is for "the pure generation". That's what the label says. The label shows a map of Hants where Broughton, source of Hildon, is to be found. The map indicates the whereabouts of Romsey, and Winchester, but omits Southampton and Aldershot as though those towns might impair its protestations of purity. (They would.) I do not own a ponytail, nor belong to a pure generation, (I didn't think anyone did); I came along banally, for lunch rather than for The Total Experience. And

lunch was OK, if subdued beside the all-over ambience. To be in keeping a chef would have to serve loin of matador or whole roast heretic (order three days in advance). The cooking here veers, in fact, towards the commonplaces of current gastronomic practice: smoked salmon with smoked trout mousse; steak (indifferent meat, overdone) with bear meat (thin, hesitantly flavoured); duck confit with ground walnuts and a salad dressed with walnut oil (altogether fine); place with a breadcrumb crust and an only marginally too underpowered sauce. It is akin to Stephen Bull without the note, the experience, the balance: Stephen Calf, maybe. Delicacy is not achieved simply by holding back.

The cheeses are workaday, a sticky toffee pudding was passable. The service is conducted by young men in black or — variety! — black and white. It is not exactly urgent, but then the layout of the place

THE MARKET BAR
★★★
240a Portobello Road, W11 (071-229 6472). Lunch and dinner every day, £53, major cards

HUBBLE & CO
★★★
55 Charterhouse Street, EC1
(071-253 1612). Lunch and dinner Mon to Fri, £55, most cards.

mitiates against the waiters being able to see the tie-tac of summoning hands: what we have here is a Design Statement, an iconic token of solidarity between house and customers, not a practical space.

With water to drink two of us paid £43. Count on, say, £53 with wine, (the list looks as though some thought has been expended on drinkable cheap bottles).

Over in Clerkenwell there are still Real People. Get there quick, while stocks last. The Unreals are on the way. Thankfully, I must admit here to an abhorrence of pubs. I'd be happy to see this ghostly British institution go the way of steam trains and church on Sundays. Despite my misgivings I'm all for transformations such as that wrought by The Market Bar. I'm equally keen on the establishment of places like Hubble & Co. The name may be the far side of draft but the place is sound, unpretentious and found in utility, not fashion. Which does not mean to say that the staff do not have ponytails. Like The Market Bar it is a two-tier operation, and offers a menu of familiar cuteness. But gastronomically the kinship stops there.

The food at Hubble & Co is robust, emphatically flavoured and generally pretty bush, which is as it should be given that the place is across the road from Smithfield Market. On the way down the stairs from the

noisy wine bar to the more placid restaurant one passes framed menus from Paris bistros. Hirumph, one thinks, this joint is not going to live up to those. But in its way it does. Save that its prices are about twice those which one might pay in a restaurant du quartier in a kindred part of Paris, Denfer-Rocherou, say, it is a commendable equivalent, but not a witty ring. It is not themed or, for that matter much decorated: the basement restaurant is spacious brick-walled, with metal columns, a bar, a few alcoves.

The staff is young and, oddly, Glaswegian, probably Glaswegian-Italian. These guys give the place a bit of zip. They do not necessarily make it miles better but they behave with an amused civility and certainly do not stink the way their south British coevals often do. And, of course, Glasgow is, after Barcelona, the Unreals' favourite city. Quite right too.

If the cooking at The Market Bar is a mite inclined to timidity, that at Hubble & Co is a load inclined to coming on strong. Which is the more acceptable pole at this level of make-believe diurnal restoration? I'd say the latter. I do not reckon that bistro cooking or whatever it's called, should be conducted with an eye or tongue on refinement. That is not to say that the kitchen here delivers crusty cooed dishes: they are, rather, confident, assertive dishes — dishes that have done EST.

Squid is stuffed with herb rice and sauced with a shellfish derivative; the overall impression is of freshness, unmuddled flavours, cleanliness. Raw beef is minimally, too minimally dressed, with a juice of ginger and chives — a rather lazy creation that would be improved by better trimming of the meat and the addition of good quality oil. Kidneys and (Lancashire style, that's to say fatty and mealy) black pudding come with a mustard sauce. Scallops and their coral and dished up in a giant's helping with a well made sauce tinged with ginger.

A mammalian strawberry mouse is accompanied by a chocolate sauce, which is not so unhappy a marriage as it might sound. The cheeses are excellent British farmhouse produce and served with the biscuit called Wheaten Wafers, the Isle of Wight's only contribution to Gastronomy UK. With a richly comic little bottle from an archly comic list — a Chianti is described as having "been aged in diesel drums" — two will pay about £65.

Stars — up to a maximum of 10 — are for cooking rather than swags and chandeliers. Prices on this page are for a three-course meal for two. They include an aperitif and modest wine in the case of French places, tea in the case of oriental ones and so on. Prices change: they usually go up. Dishes also may have changed — they are given only as an indication of the establishment's repertoire. I accept no responsibility for disappointments and claim no credit for happy surprises. Always phone first. J.M.

Francis Moseley

★★★★★

244 Great Portland Street, London W1 (071-338 4657). Drearly decorated Japanese basement restaurant with some real heights. Beef and potato stew, deliciously light dumplings, minced stewed chicken. £30.

CATHEDRAL CITIES

Harper

★★★★★
6-7 Ox Row, Market Square, Salisbury, Wiltshire (0722 333118). Fairly simple first-floor restaurant over-looking Salisbury's impressive market place. Good rack of lamb, mushroom tart; astoundingly prepared vegetables; impressive French regional wines. £30.

The Old Fire Engine House
★★★★★
25 St Mary's Street, Els, Cambridgeshire (0502 65 2522). English cooking which promises more than it delivers. This handsome, greyish brick restaurant a couple of hundred yards from the west front of the cathedral, is quiet and trouble to obtain local catches, such as pike and zander. But its cooking does not match its shopping. Best bets are casseroles, such as beef with Guinness or rabbit. A pleasant, rather old-fashioned place. The wine list is excellent and prices low. £20.

BIG NIGHT OUT

Keats

★★★★★
32 Dunsden Hill, London NW3 (071-435 1493/554). Formal and rather tame service; dining rooms that are like a stage set of a library. Subtle and nicely balanced cooking: steaks with a herb crust and red wine sauce; beef fillet with shallots and turnips; ravioles of calves' heart and parsnip; sole with a swirl of two creams. The dishes are of a kind now rarely found save in hotels; they are, however, as is too often the case, confounded by their elaboration. Decent wine list, no bargains. £20.

Miyu

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Savouring the blessings of summer

Frances Bissell dips into her food diaries for some favourite recipes — as pleasing for impromptu dinners as weekday evenings

Greengrocers' displays, market stalls and supermarket shelves are now laden with summer produce, including rosy apricots, plump cherries, firm, green gooseberries and succulent peaches. The price of melons and artichokes has dropped, which makes them worth considering as starters.

The new season's garlic is wonderful, huge, fresh and pungent. Thinly sliced cloves will lift even the dullest Dutch tomato salad — although I have already seen fresh, sweet Italian plum tomatoes at our local greengrocers. I like to cook the new garlic, whole cloves of it, in casseroles, or to roast it whole in the oven, sprinkled with a little olive oil. The aromatic bulb turns to a mild creaminess when cooked, which is delicious spread on vegetables, particularly new potatoes.

Of these, there seem to be more varieties this year. The smallest ones I use in a favourite pasta recipe, combined with green beans and pesto. Pots of basil and other herbs are in full, fragrant leaf now, and it is the time to make your own pesto with garlic, Parmesan and Pecorino cheese, pinenuts and extra virgin olive oil. Today's Genoese recipe is for one of the dishes I cook most often at this time of year.

The rest of the recipes are also favourites, taken from my food diaries. They are not difficult and do not require expensive ingredients. Although just the kind of dishes to put together for a weekday evening, they are also ideal for impromptu dinner parties.

The rum and pineapple soufflé came about in just that way. After inviting American visitors to our flat for champagne and canapés, we liked them enough to ask them to stay for dinner. The chicken I had planned to roast would stretch to feed four; the asparagus certainly would too, because I always overbuy that, but the pudding presented more of a problem. I had a half pineapple in the refrigerator and a couple of eggs, which I turned into small soufflés. These are easy to make and give the most informal dinner a sense of occasion.

Rosy and ripe though the apricots may be, and most tempting looking, I have been disappointed

at their woolliness inside. Although I would much prefer to eat fruit raw, and would not at this stage of the season want to cook cherries and peaches, my apricots were much improved by poaching them. I cooked them in a way suggested by Roger Vergé for *Les pêches au poivre au vin de poivre et de laurier*.

There is only another week of the local asparagus season left, and I include a pleasing recipe found on an asparagus wrapper.

The first two recipes for salads are best served freshly made, and even a little warm. If you have to refrigerate them, it is a good idea to bring them to room temperature first. Packets of smoked salmon pieces are useful to have on hand, not only for sandwiches but for cutting up and stirring into salads like these, and hot pasta dishes (I have been buying packets of salmon pieces from our local Budgets, reasonably priced). I am particularly keen on the lentil salad, where smoked salmon replaces the bacon often used to season lentils.

Pasta and salmon salad (serves 4 to 6)

1lb/455g pasta, such as shells or spirals (*conchiglie* or *tusilli*)

6oz/170g thick plain yoghurt, crème fraîche or soured cream

1tbsp chopped parsley

6 finely chopped spring onions

1 shallot, peeled and chopped

freshly ground black pepper

sea salt

1/2lb/230g cooked salmon, flaked

5oz/85g smoked salmon, cut into strips

Cook the pasta as directed on the package and, when just cooked, drain it and mix while hot with the yoghurt or cream, herbs, onions and seasoning to taste. Peeled and crushed garlic can also be added. Allow the salad to cool and, just before serving, stir in the two kinds of salmon. Smoked haddock and pasta also makes a good salad.

Lentil and smoked salmon salad with hazelnut vinaigrette (serves 6 to 8)

1/2lb/230g green lentils

2-3 shallots

2tbsp sunflower oil

1-2tbsp hazelnut oil

Cook the lentils with one and a half times their volume of water and cook while tender. If the lentils are old and dry, you may need to add more water during cooking. Peel and chop the shallots and mix with the lentils when cooked. Stir in the oils, vinegar, seasoning and garlic while the lentils are still hot and they will absorb the flavours of the dressing. Allow to cool before stirring in the smoked salmon.

Spaghetti Genoese-style (serves 5)

1lb/455g small new potatoes

1/2lb/230g slim green beans

1lb/455g dry spaghetti

2tbsp extra virgin olive oil

3-4tbsp pesto, freshly grated

Parmesan, to serve separately

Put a large pan of lightly salted water on to boil. Scrub the potatoes, and top and tail the beans. When the water boils, put in the potatoes and boil for seven minutes. Then add the spaghetti to the boiling water for eight minutes before adding the beans, broken into pieces if you wish, and boil for

THE TIMES COOK



DIANA LEADBETTER

1/2pt/450ml good full-bodied white or rose wine
sugar or honey to taste

Peel the apricots by plunging them briefly into a pan of boiling water to loosen the skins. Put the apricots in a saucier with the spices and wine. Simmer gently until the apricots are tender, but not woolly. This may take anything from 10 to 30 minutes, depending on the ripeness of the apricots. Remove the apricots with a slotted spoon, and transfer to a serving bowl. Boil the liquid to thicken it slightly, and sweeten to taste. Scrape the seeds from the vanilla pod into the syrup, and pour through a strainer over the apricots. When cool, chill until ready to serve. The bay leaves can be used to decorate some of the apricots. Clove and cinnamon can be used in place of the vanilla and pepper/allspice mixture.

Pineapple and rum soufflé (serves 4 to 6)

1/2lb/230g peeled fresh pineapple
1oz/30g butter
1tbsp flour
1/2pt/70ml skimmed milk
1tbsp caster sugar
3 eggs, separated
Sauce
3tbsp orange juice
1tbsp caster sugar
1tbsp cornflour
3tbsp rum

Dice a third of the pineapple, and put to one side. Chop the rest, and put into a blender with a couple of tablespoons of water. Blend for a few seconds, and then pour through a sieve over a bowl. Press out as much as possible, and then put the pulp with the diced pineapple. Melt the butter in a saucier, and stir in the flour. Cook the roux for a few minutes, and blend in equal parts of pineapple juice (using no more than half) and skimmed milk until you have a smooth sauce. Cook for a few minutes until it thickens. Remove from the heat, and stir in both lots of pineapple and the egg yolks. Mix thoroughly. Whisk the egg white to firm peaks, and fold in carefully. Spoon the mixture into prepared individual ramekins, place on a baking tray, and cook in a pre-heated oven at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for between 12 and 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, make the sauce. Put the orange juice, sugar and cornflour (slaked in a tablespoon or two of water) in a saucier together with the remaining pineapple juice. Bring to the boil, and cook for a few minutes until thickened slightly. Stir in the rum just before serving the soufflés. Dust them with icing sugar, and, as you serve each one, break open the top with a spoon, and pour in a little sauce, which will cause the soufflé to rise in its pot.

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• A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Jane Grigson, the distinguished scholar and cookery writer, will be held at noon on Thursday, June 28, in St Margaret's Church, Westminster. Information 071-403 8638.

Just

a number

in her

petite

red book.

DRINK

Real ale is heartier

Pity the Great British pint. For centuries we enjoyed and exported a wide range of flavoursome, traditionally brewed beers. We still brew them. But the British taste in beer has changed from the carefully crafted ales and stouts of old to lager. Even some of those pubs where the real beer revival started, thanks to the efforts of the Campaign for Real Ale, have succumbed to lager's siren call. This light, boring brew accounts for about half of all the beer sold in this country, and the trend is growing.

The success story of lager is not new. It has been brewed in Scotland for more than a century and its sales have been steadily rising since the Sixties. But there are signs that the standard lagers, brewed under licence in the UK by British brewers, such as Whitbread with Heineken and Watney Mann with Carlsberg, have reached saturation point. So too have the cheap Continental lager look-alikes with Bavarian-sounding names such as Courage's Hofmeister and Whitbread's Heldenbräu.

What is new are the cult "underground" premium bottled lagers, downed by enthusiastic youngsters in clubs and wine bars, from countries as diverse as Mexico, Africa, America and even Japan. Richard Fuller, of the family-run real ale Chiswick brewery, says the younger beer-drinkers are moving away from ordinary lagers to the premium versions, so that "they can put a bottle on the table and make a statement about themselves". Richard Macadam, Oddbins' beer buyer, agrees: "They are looking for a lager that is genuine, different and of good quality, so that they can tell their friends of their find."

Oddbins' devoted customers apparently report "underground lager finds" weekly, the latest including Corona from Mexico and Rolling Rock from Pennsylvania. Macadam has had no alternative but to put his money where his customers' mouths are. Oddbins' latest list offers its biggest range of premium

but a stronger, better quality product. Happily, apart from the new premium bottled lagers from abroad, this is where real ale steps forward.

It is perhaps too soon to talk about a real ale renaissance in the UK, but Whitbread reports growing interest in its 23 cask-conditioned, real ales, with key brands such as Flowers Original, Boddingtons and Fentimans all doing well.

Whitbread admits that the lager category will continue to be popular, and I agree that a taste-bud-numbing, ice-cold, thirst-quenching can of lager hits the spot, as nothing else does, in overheated moments.

But, given the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's insistence that brewers with more than 2,000 pubs, in other words the big six, must allow tenants to one cask-conditioned "guest ale" from any brewer they like, real ale sales are likely to rise considerably.

Mr Fuller knows that his company, and other small, regional real ale brewers, must not miss this open-market opportunity to boost sales.

"For the first time we are advertising on poster sites and bus sides," says

Oddbins, despite its increased sales of Theakstons, Boddingtons and Youngs, accepts that real ale has a problem. "It does not translate properly from cask into can or bottle; you lose part of the real ale flavour."

The real thing is available only in real ale pubs and bars, and its condition depends on the expertise of the publican. Still, new technology in the shape of the recently launched "draught in a can" Guinness Original, and the improved Wadworth SX, both of which contain less carbon dioxide than usual, looks encouraging.

And, despite the big six brewers' obsession with a crystal-clear product, the bottle-conditioned beers such as the pungent, rich, sweet, nutty Guinness Original, and Wadworth's White Shield with its copper colour and attractive, light, yeasty bitter taste, are still widely available.

Would that there were more of these beers about.



"Oh Malcolm. It's so sweet of you to have our INITIALS strip-mined into the Nevada desert. And abiding thirty-five floors with a hundredweight of CHOCOLATE SNAILS... well, it was such a lovely gesture. And now Petite Liquorelle. How did you know?"

"She takes up the bottle. Smiles as the blend of brilliant Bordeaux wines and fine old COGNAC reaches her LIPS. Drams the last drop and leaves."

"Wh... you're going already."

"Got to — don't want to be late... boyfriend's taking me ice-skating this evening."

THINK PETITE. Petite Liquorelle. From the house of Moët & Chandon.

PETITE LIQUORELLE
PETILLANTE
MOËT & CHANDON

In 1789, our nobility became scarce.

Our revolution two hundred years ago did not entirely eradicate our aristocracy.

At the Château de Saint-Amour in the Beaujolais, elitism of the most acceptable sort is practised.

Instead of the traditional blending of wines for the various crus, the juice from the Château's pampered Gamay grapes is bottled alone.

The wine that results is the magnificent Château de Saint-Amour and there is never enough produced.

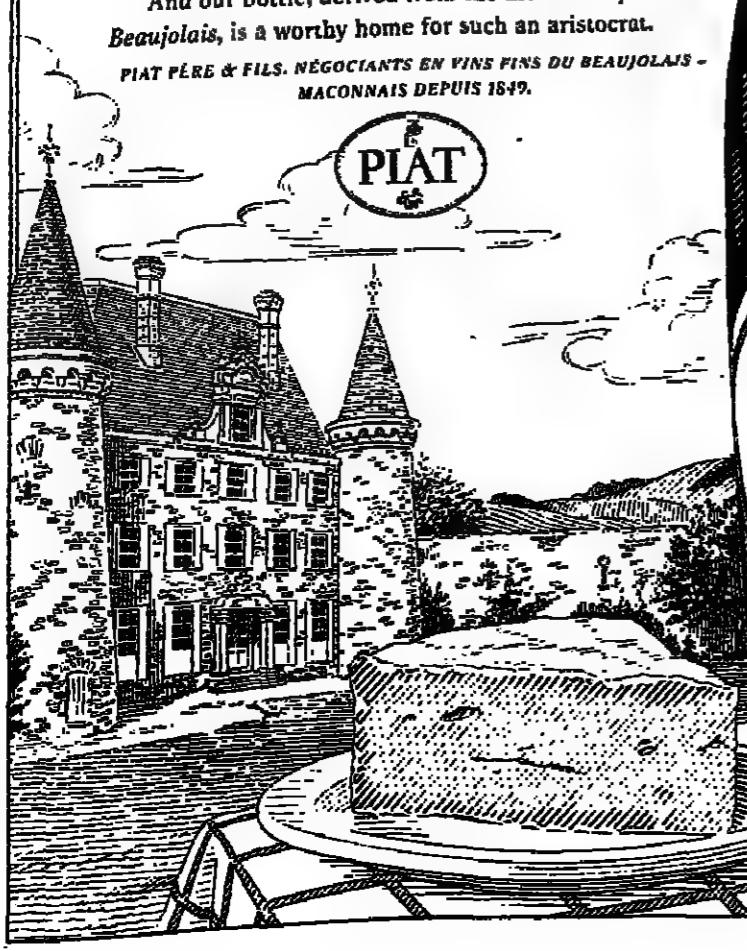
The distinctive wine of Château de Saint-Amour is passionately scarlet, with a bouquet of luscious blackberries, and a taste that inspires poets.

But should we tempt you in this manner? Château de Saint-Amour is not easy to find. And if you should chance to discover a bottle, you will find it is not cheap.

Every drop produced is sold exclusively to us; Piat Père & Fils, négociants in the Beaujolais for over a century.

And our bottle, derived from the mediaeval por of the Beaujolais, is a worthy home for such an aristocrat.

PIAT PÈRE & FILS. NEGOCEANTS EN VINS FINS DU BEAUJOLAIS — MACONNAIS DEPUIS 1849.



WINE BUYS

• 1989 Haut Poitou Chardonnay Majestic Wine Warehouses £2.75, £2.95
Not as famous as its Sancerre-Sauvignon brother, but the cult Chardonnay grape, when planted in the Loire valley, can come up trumps. Its crisp, juicy, green apple-like freshness proves the point.

• 1985 Haute-Côte-de-Nuits, Tete de Cuvee, Sainsbury's £5.25

The rich, plump fruit gives you some of the superb 1985 burgundy vintage, at a fraction of the usual cost, although this one is not as stony as the Haute-Côte-de-Beaune version that Sainsbury's stocked a year or so ago.

Would that there were more of these beers about.

The past illuminates the present

CHINA, according to Jonathan Spence, has at no time since 1600 been a modern nation. Introducing his book on this provocative note, Professor Spence devotes the following 750 pages to a lucid and fascinating account of China's tormented struggle to become modern. His definition of a modern nation is one that is both integrated and receptive, fairly sure of its own identity yet able to join others on equal terms in the quest for new markets, new technologies, new ideas. Far from being a synonym for the contemporary western pattern of development, "modern" becomes a concept "which shifts with the times".

The Search for Modern China relates the quest for the modern at different levels of Chinese society during the past four centuries. It charts the fragmentation and reconsolidation of state power through key moments in China's recent past: from the early 17th century and the fall of the Ming dynasty, through the destruction of the Manchu empire in 1911 and the decline of Nationalist power during the late 1940s, to the deterioration of Communist power during the late 1980s. Professor Spence draws

out connections and contrasts in the configuration of social forces in each period, giving the reader a sense of historical immediacy that is both informative

Harriet Evans
THE SEARCH FOR MODERN CHINA
By Jonathan D. Spence
Hutchinson, £19.95

and absorbing. He underlines the extraordinary resilience of central political authority to both internal and external threats, and examines the repeated attempts by the Chinese people to protect their own interests against the central state. The small rural communities, the callous power-seekers of the ruling élite, the courageous critics of state policy, the entrepreneurs thwarted by bureaucratic restrictions, and the upright exponents of the Confucian moral order – all had their own voice, which Professor Spence allows us to hear.

One notable strength of his writing – apparent in his earlier writings as well as this book – is his ability to convey the character, shape and atmosphere of his subject. The interior of the luxurious compounds of the rich, or the details of the scholar's writing apparatus are described with lit-

eracy skill. The biographical sketch of Gong Zizhen, as "an emotionally complex and cantankerous man, who paid no attention to dress or deportment, wrote wild calligraphy, consort with all social classes, gambled recklessly, and insulted his elders", powerfully summarises the eccentric character of one of the Qing dynasty's most radical critics. His accounts of moments of extreme tension, or of deprivation and suffering, can be equally effective.

His summary of the first two turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution manages to convey the chaos – the capture, fear, excitement and tension that gripped the country in one of the best brief accounts of the Cultural Revolution written in English.

The breadth and diversity of Professor Spence's concerns mean – inevitably – that the book is uneven in its treatment of certain subjects. His analysis of the forces sustaining the great Taiping rebellion, which rocked the foundations

of the Qing dynasty during the mid-19th century, is not as convincing as his exposition of the motives of its leader, Hong Xiuquan. The mood of submissiveness and resentment that prevailed during the political repression of the Gang of Four years does not come across in his writing. Nor is he at his strongest in analysing the depth of the central conflict that lay behind the events of June 4, 1989.

But such imbalances are insignificant, given the quality of this work. For the reader of Professor Spence's book, history becomes an absorbing field of insight and reflection, illuminating the present problems of China's society through its manifold connections with the past.

He moves easily from theme to theme, however complex: China's monolithic bureaucracy, its immense population pressures, its institutionalised corruption, and the appropriation of literary and artistic culture by ruling political élites. Accompanied by extensive maps, tables, bibliographies, and excellent illustrations, *The Search for Modern China* will become a classic work of modern Chinese history.

Treasures mapped

Roger de Grey

THE TIMES MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES PASSPORT GUIDE 1990
Edited by Simon Tait
Spero Press, £7.95

THIS second edition is a sturdy, well-designed paperback, listing more than 500 museums and galleries throughout the British Isles. The text is subdivided by region, but the indexes by subject and location make the information easily findable. Each entry lists the times of opening, telephone numbers, facilities, and the concessions granted to the holders of *Times* Passport cards; at the end there are some useful maps and space for notes – what more could you ask?

In *The Portrait of a Lady*, Ralph Touchett and Miss Molyneux agree that, "Pictures are very convenient. They're so pleasant when it rains." The Passport Guide lists picture galleries by the score, but also windmills, martello towers, 19th century operating theatres (London SE1), stylisms (Montrose), collections of boots and shoes (Northampton), the Freud Museum, the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and, at Framlingham, a "volunteer-run museum with bits of World War II aircraft uniforms, documents, photographs and other memorabilia in an old control tower". In such an overflowing cornucopia, surely all of us can indulge our passions, and even discover new ones?

The great advance over last year's guide is that this edition has been opened to all museums and galleries throughout the British Isles, not as before, only to those that offer Passport concessions. This makes it a most valuable and entertaining guide for those touring the country, while locals can, given the guide's arrangement, scour their own particular area for an afternoon's delight.

I think it was Bertrand Russell who, told that D. H. Lawrence had published a book of verses entitled *Look! We have come through!* said that he was glad to hear the news, but didn't see why he should look. Similar dark thoughts have crossed my mind sometimes with regard to the work of Seamus Heaney. Not that Mr Heaney goes in for ejaculatory exhibitionism with his titles: cast your eye over his separate collections, and it is words like death, dark, winter, north, and work that advertise him. Still, there is this feeling that Mr Heaney does not think in language as much as he commands it and our attention:

*I returned to a long strand,
the hammered curve of a bay,
and found only the secular
powers of the Atlantic: thundering*

Not enough is going on here to justify the technique. It is "Innismore" updated, with all artificial sweeteners removed to please a contemporary taste. And why has Heaney changed "the hammered shod of a bay" (as it was in *North*) to "the hammered curve of a bay"? The original at least had the merit of an awkward vigour. The version in *New Selected Poems 1966-1987*

Artifice over art

POETRY

Robert Nye

NEW SELECTED POEMS 1966-1987
By Seamus Heaney
Faber, £11.99, paperback £4.99

is altogether blander. This is Kerrycold verse. To write it is not difficult for a lad of parts. Cut yourself a slice of something real, then spread words on it like butter. Perhaps Mr Heaney has been the victim of his own success. One of the dangers of fame, for a poet, is that his name comes to stand in the public opinion for some characteristic of himself, and that this name swallows up the man. Young Mr Heaney won much praise for poems about bogs and bones and

animals, poems where language was matched to subject with such relish that critics suggested he had inherited Yeats' bardic mantle. This would be neither here nor there, in terms of the man's actual talent, save that this retrospective selection shows too many signs of Mr Heaney coming near to believing it himself. Only in one or two poems as quietly spoken as "An Afterwards" does the poet succeed in escaping his own image. Then he writes not to give his public what it wants, but to puzzle the truth out of his own private experience:

*She would plunge all poets in the ninth circle
And fix them, tooth in skull,
Tonguing for brain,
For backbiting in life she'd make their hell
A rabid egotistical daisy-chain.*

There is more authentic feeling in this poem (which I take to be self-satire) than in any of the down-the-farm or up-on-the-pedestal pieces: more genuine conviction in the rhythm and wit in the word-choice, too. It would be good if Heaney could ignore the curse of fame, and work harder at home truths like these.

Tintinadulation unbound

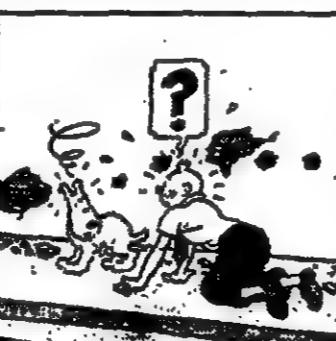
FOR CHILDREN

Martin Spence

444 ALBUMS TINTIN
By Luc Brigitte
Brigitte Editions, £13.95

ARE the crab's claws on the title page of your copy of *The Crab With the Golden Claws* pointing up? Is the spine glazed red, Van Gogh yellow, or Gitane blue? Yes? Now, check the endpapers. Are they packed with portraits of the Tintin family on a light blue background (easy to find)? Or are they covered with white line drawings on a deep blue background, with Snowy wearing a turban (harder)?

No? Thundering typhoons. Get down to Sotheby's. You are the



proud owner of a faded Tintin first edition, with primitive pictures, drab white endpapers, and very poor quality paper.

Tintin firsts are almost as hard to determine as Noddy's. All you can really rely on is the number of previous titles listed on the back cover. Hergé's obsessive changes to ensure verisimilitude are as confusing as copyright dates. *The Black Island*, for example, was radically redesigned for publication in England in 1963, with whiter cliffs, higher railway bridges, more buttons on the bobbies' uniforms, a new tartan for Tintin, and bigger whisky barrels for Snowy to swing from. There has been nothing for serious collectors to go to. Until now.

Luc Brigitte has scoured the archives of Casterman, Hergé's Belgian publishers, and key private

collections of Tintiniana, to produce this collector's guide to the 23 Tintin albums. He distinguishes 444 different editions, with photographs of the front and back covers for easy identification. Given the importance of colour variation and tone, it would have been helpful to have colour for every bookshot. But the guide is rightly divided into four sections: all the colour editions up to 1965; the early black-and-white Casterman editions; the three very scarce albums from the early Thirties; and an intriguing glimpse of the limited editions and facsimiles signed by Hergé and Snowy (Hergé's wife's nom de plume). Brigitte carefully avoids the temptation to estimate values and so discourage novice collectors. And, anyway, values date. Instead, from one to four Tintin stars are awarded for rarity.

Of course, you can still pay £2,500 for a numbered first edition

Witness to the first prosecution of Sixties innocence

In only six days, a literary cause célèbre redefined the boundaries of taste and morality. Peter Ackroyd assesses a courtroom drama that 'was less about the novel itself than about the age in which the trial took place'

THE LADY CHATTERLEY'S LOVER TRIAL
Edited by H. Montgomery Hyde
The Bodley Head, £18

transcript of the trial itself has the fascination normally attendant upon such scenes, but it has the additional merit of providing a detailed record of a time long since gone. It seems odd now, for example, to hear the prosecuting counsel say to the jury of Lawrence's novel: "Is it a book you would even wish your wife or your servants to read?" The tone of an earlier age is to be discovered even within his denunciation of the same fiction: "It commands, and indeed it sets out to command, sensuality almost as a virtue." This statement seems true enough, even though the defence called a large number of witnesses in order to testify to Lawrence's good and even holy intentions.

Some of these witnesses were writers who simply did not believe that the work of a great novelist should be censored. Others were members of what might be called the *bien pensant* liberal establishment, just about to come into its own during the decade that followed. And others were literary academics for whom the novel was as sacred as any Biblical text – had not Dr Lewis written an entire book on Lawrence only five years

ago? Even at the time it was seen very clearly that the stakes were high, and that the novel would become something of a moral battleground for the future. The prosecution made a strong case for the maintenance of communal values, and for what counsel called "standards of respect, for the kind of conduct of which society approves", while the defence tended to emphasise the individual author's right of self-expression. That battle continues, of course, even though the absurdity of "free speech" has now been fully exposed – speech is never free for those who know how to use words properly.

But what was the state of this threatened "society" in 1960? This



Declarations of interdependence

Jonathan Clark

ALBION'S SEED
Four British Folkways in America
By David Hackett Fischer
Oxford, £35

tion, breaking a Marxist model by implying a much older and continuous tradition of liberty and property, so Professor Fischer traces American cultural patterns to the regional origins of colonialists within the British Isles.

Early emigration to the Americas is divided into four waves. The exodus of Puritans to New England between 1629 and 1640 is traced to East Anglia. A migration of royalists and indentured servants to Virginia in c. 1675-1725 can be followed back to the North Midlands and Wales. Finally, the largest of all was the human tide that flowed into the Appalachian backcountry in c. 1718-75 from Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the English Borders.

How were they distinct? Professor Fischer builds up his picture of each folkway out of 24 components – his subjects' attitudes and customs in respect of speech, building, families, marriage, sex, death, religion, food, dress, sport, rank, order, power, and others. Folkways, for Professor Fischer, are distinct because they are different in all these respects. Moreover, the more advanced a society becomes in material terms, the stronger is the determinant power of its folkways, for modern technologies act as amplifiers, and modern institutions as stabilisers and modern élites as organisers of these complex cultural processes.

Professor Fischer's strongest card is his painstaking demonstration of Anglo-American transience, especially of material culture. Regional cultures did and do exist in

these islands, and their profound difference is one of the great forgotten themes of British history. They were indeed recreated, often more clearly, in their new transatlantic home. But what happened then? How did these folkways retain their identity in the New World? How could they propagate themselves so successfully? Professor Fischer's epic five-volume study to discover whether his folkways seem so powerful because they are really just ideal types.

Secondly, Professor Fischer's approach is sufficiently indebted to social anthropology to do not derive from any of the obvious and evolving sources (the liberalism of the Founding Fathers, the import of European liberalism, the abolition of slavery in the Civil War, the revolt of the 1960s) but from the (relatively timeless) diversity of his folkways.

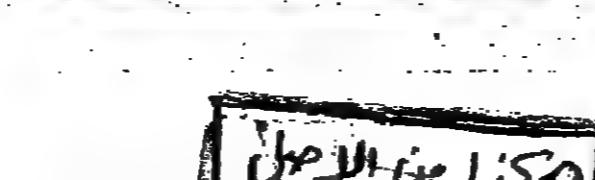
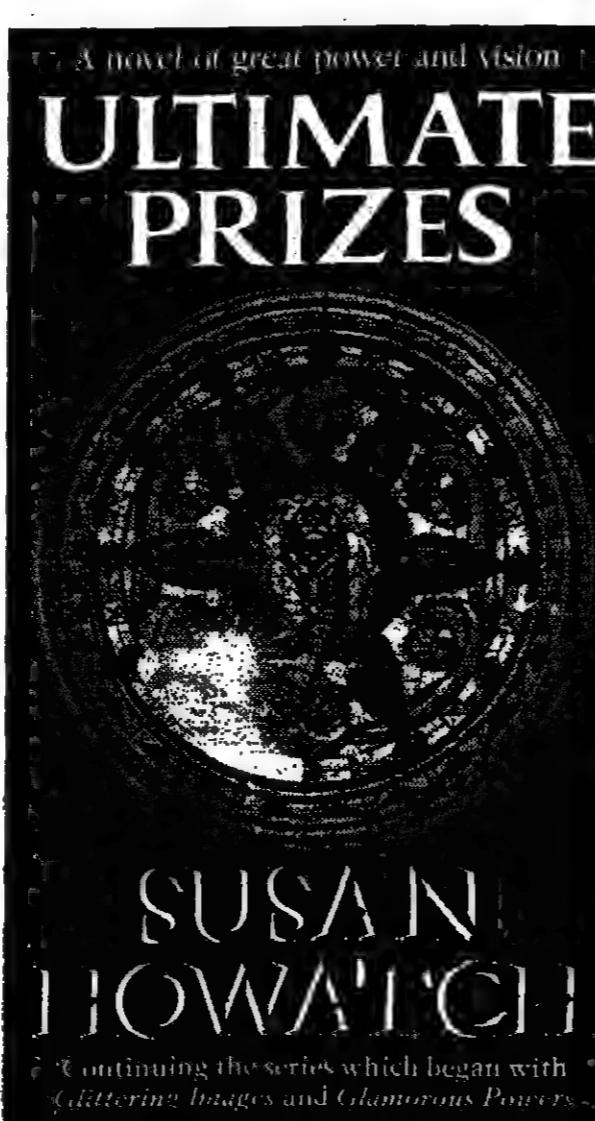
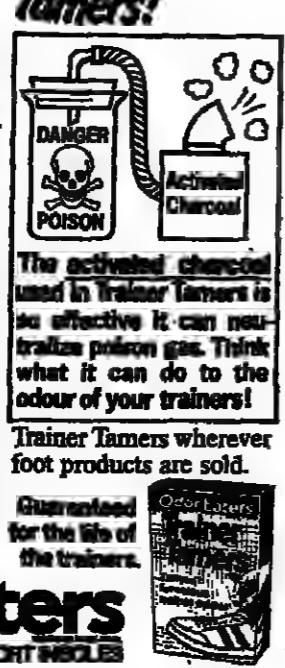
The British might be even more surprised, since Professor Fischer wants to treat modern American libertarianism as special: he believes he has uncovered the determinants of a voluntary soci-

Are his trainers a walking gas attack?

Maybe he needs Trainer Tamers!

Mum, the ferocious odour of trainers can turn your young champion into a social outcast. Fortunately, there's a solution. For sweet feet, it's Trainer Tamers from the makers of OdorEaters.

More than a cover-up that just camouflages odour, Trainer Tamers are powered by activated charcoal that traps and destroys ferocious foot odour. In addition, the soft latex foam in Trainer Tamers absorbs foot perspiration to help prevent trainers from rotting and decaying. For sweet feet, get





It is why the trial of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was less about the novel itself than about the age in which the trial took place.

There were in fact two unacknowledged issues at work during the six days of hearings. The first was the unstated theme of class, for example, and there is no doubt that the idea of the lady making love to the gamekeeper represented the very breakdown in ordinary class relations which England, in the Sixties, was about to experience on a large scale. Hence the unease that the book aroused in

certain quarters. The unacknowledged assumption of many of the defence witnesses was also part of the furniture of the age: sex was seen by many of them to be the paramount human activity, by which the quality of civilisation itself could be measured. It was the main thing, a "sacred" activity. This was very much part of the creed of the Sixties, and must be seen in that historical context.

Of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, at this late date, little really needs to be said — except, perhaps, for the curious fact that the sexual scenes

in the book do now seem to be the

most tritely or flatly written.

The opponents of the book were in that

sense right, but for the wrong

reasons. The point is that sexual

activity in fiction is unheathy, not

because it is "obscene" but because

it is indescribable. It is an activity

that drowns individuality, and is

thus peculiarly difficult for an art

which expresses individuality to

encompass. Writing about sex is to

be condemned on the grounds of

style rather than of taste: that, 30

years on, seems to be the principal

lesson of the *Lady Chatterley* saga.



Holocaust with an English accent

Michael Hartland

JOURNEY INTO DARKNESS

By Anthony Faramus
Grafton, £14.95

Leaders in the New World

et, his own. The interplay of the four different conceptions of liberty ("ordered liberty" in New England, "hegemonic liberty" in Virginia, the "reciprocal liberty" of the Quakers and the "natural liberty" of the backcountry) has "created an expansive pluralism which is more libertarian than any unitary culture alone could be". But surely, on his premises, Britain should be at least as plural?

In 1900 some 60 per cent of Americans were of British stock; today, less than 20 per cent. The steady erosion of the East Coast establishment, and the rise of minority pressure groups, looks from this side of the Atlantic more like the long-term *failure* of Albion's seed in 20th century America. But if folkways are as powerful as Professor Fischer says, what can we expect from blacks, Hispanics, and Asians in future decades?

Why, indeed, should Albion's seed win this cultural battle? And what happens if they lose it? Is Americans' adoption of an ideal of pluralism and rejection of the ideal of cultural assimilation since the 1950s part of that very process of defeat? Professor Fischer has written a major book, which cannot be ignored; if he is forced to flee America by the outcry it is sure to arouse we must hope that his career will flourish in Britain.

Early in 1944 Mr Faramus was transported to Buchenwald, then to Mauthausen in Austria, entering a twilight world of privation and terror that plainly still haunts him. Much has been written about concentration camps, but this account has something uniquely poignant. His viewpoint is unusual — very few Britons were in the camps, and he was without the support of a group like the Jews, Jehovah's Witnesses, or communists. Yet he survived, and writes of brutality and conveyor belt executions with a vividness and irony that is moving but devoid of self-pity.

Perhaps the main — and somewhat unexpected — interest lies in the turbulence of camp life in these last years of the war. By 1944 everyone knew that Germany had lost, the prisoners were no longer cowed, revolts took place and the violence used to suppress them reached horrific levels. On the way to Germany the prisoners in Mr Faramus's railway truck broke out and set fire to the train. A few escaped, but most were shot down or recaptured. Guards vented their fury on our naked bodies, beating our remnants back into the truck with whips and rubber truncheons. Arc-lamps sizzled under sodden trees where recaptured men were being garroted from low hanging branches."

It has taken Mr Faramus nearly half a century to bring himself to write this book — and he still feels angry that the worst excesses took place after the Normandy invasion, when the horrors of the camps were well-known to the Allies. Could nothing have been done — if only by the threat of retribution after the war — to prevent it?

He also recognises the bitter

truth that men and women inflicted

this pain on their fellows, not

reluctantly but with lustful cruelty.

Every one of them must also bear

responsibility.

Union Street could be subtitled "Fear is the enemy of love". These seven linked but self-contained tales describe lives lived in terror of what other people will think. Joanne Wilson gets pregnant at 18 and marries the dull, self-centred father because people expect it, though she loves and is loved by another man. But that other man is a midget. She imagines jokes about step-ladders and everyone being the same size in bed and does not seriously consider him. Through fear she is headed for a lifetime of misery.

Iris King's fury with her daughter for becoming pregnant and disgracing her leads her to drag the girl round the maternity ward by her hair. She tells her never to come home. Her inhumanity seems shocking. But gradually we learn of the heart-wrenching deprivations of Iris's childhood, and that it is because of them that "her reputation mattered more to her than anything else". For Pat Barker, and for us as we read these stories to understand all is to forgive all.

Even the black sheep in this close-knit society are filled with social fear and unease. They act outrageously in spite of it, impelled by ungovernable longings and needs. Everyone is bound together

in the net of ignorance and intolerance of a timeless Northern working-class culture.

Union Street was first published in 1982

and in the last

story the period is

named as "the

Seventies", but it

is still shocking to get pregnant

outside marriage.

Only 12-year-old Kelly Brown, in

the first story, bitterly independent of her neglectful mother, and old

Alice Bell, determined to perish

rather than leave her house for an

old people's home, is to some

extent free spirits. One is raped; the

other dies. But the moment when

they link hands, at the end of the

book, is one of hope. Pat Barker

makes plain that there is nothing

whatsoever to be said in favour of

poverty. These

stories, written in

simple, powerful

prose and contain-

ing wonderful

dialogue, beauti-

fully constructed

both individually

and as a group,

are utterly free of

suspense — a prostitute killer is on

the loose — make for fascinating,

disturbing reading.

The *Century's Daughter*, Bark-

er's third novel, is far more

ambitious in scope, spanning 80

years and many lives. But the

sections set before the second world

war have the somewhat stilted tone

of scenes not adequately imagined.

The accounts of young men going

willingly to war, of the horror of

the trenches and bereaved mothers

turning to spiritualism, have the

feel of "writing by numbers". The

later sections include a consider-

able amount of material recycled

from *Union Street*, but with a

certain missing over of the author's

gaze. Sentimentality has crept in.

And the novel is over-long. Never-

theless, this is a good book, with

some memorable scenes and

characters, perhaps all the more so

if read as history-made-easy rather

than as first-rate fiction.

Family fortune

Edward Buscombe

COPPOLA
By Peter Cowie
Faber, £6.99

Scott Fitzgerald's dictum that there are no second acts in American lives might have been minted for Francis Ford Coppola. The most talented Hollywood director of his generation — more ambitious than Scorsese, more complex than Spielberg — Coppola peaked early. At the age of 32 he made *The Godfather*. By the end of 1972, the year of its release, it had grossed \$150 million, and was at that time the biggest box-office success ever. Now it is simply an economic phenomenon. *The Godfather* has serious claims to be the best picture ever to make it into the list of box-office champions.

But in the intervening 20 years or so Coppola has struggled to find his magic touch again. His films have rarely been less than distinctive. Some, like *Peggy Sue Got Married*, were popular with audiences others, such as *The Conversation*, were critically esteemed. Even Coppola's failures, like the technically innovative *One From the Heart*, are usually more interesting than other people's successes.

Beside *The Godfather*, the one film for which he will always be remembered well at the box office, grossing more than \$100 million. Yet the myth obstinately remains that it was a flop, and that, since *The Godfather*, Coppola's career has been on a downward spiral. Somehow, the sheer scale of his ambitions seems to fit him to the mould of other, earlier Hollywood colossi with feet of clay.

Coppola's fail has not, so far, been as extreme as theirs. Though his initial plans for *Zoetrope*, the studio complex he developed in San Francisco, were severely curtailed by the total failure of *One From the Heart*, he has remained active as producer, director, and general film entrepreneur. Yet success on his earlier scale still eludes him. There is surely an element of desperation about his recent decision to direct *The Godfather Part III*. His wife, Eleanor, remarks wryly that the studio finally made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

Any life of a film director is drawn irresistibly towards reading the films through the personal biography. In Coppola's case, Mr Cowie makes a persuasive case for seeing the work and the man through the prism of a single idea, that of the family. Coppola's whole career has been an attempt to substitute for the soullessness of the production line the warmth and intimacy of the family. His greatest film, after all, views organised crime as a family affair. His father has written the music for several of his productions, and Talia Shire, his sister, has acted in some of his films, as have his nephew Nicholas Cage and his children.

In Buchenwald he witnessed

medical experiments, and the end-

less hanging of would-be escapees,

watched by the wives and children

of guards as well as the prisoners. In

Mauthausen there was starvation,

every kind of disease, and the

courage of rabbits and Catholic

priests comforting others while

dying themselves. The Reich, too,

was dying, but it kept up supplies of

poison gas and fuel for the cre-

moratorium until April 1945.

Herrenvolk SS guards

drafted to fight, replaced by old

men from the Vienna Fire Brigade

and children of the Hitler Youth,

who were particularly vicious.

In the orgy of killing at the end, part

of the camp was dynamited, and

2,000 Russians machine-gunned on

the SS football field. When the

American tanks arrived, there was

nothing left but corpses and skeletal

figures close to death. Even then the

killing was not over. Now it was the

turn of the guards buried into the

quarry, or staked out on the road

for trucks full of jeering prisoners to

crush them.

He also recognises the bitter

truth that men and women inflict

this pain on their fellows, not

reluctantly but with lustful cruelty.

Every one of them must also bear

responsibility.

It is why the trial of *Lady*

Chatterley's Lover was less about

the novel itself than about the age

in which the trial took place.

There were in fact two un-

acknowledged issues at work

during the six days of hearings.

The first was the unstated theme of

class, for example, and there is no

doubt that the idea of the lady

making love to the gamekeeper

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ARTS

Father and daughter reconciled: John Woodvine, Natasha Richardson in Eugene O'Neill's *Anna Christie*

DONALD COOPER

Gems, but in an odd setting

THEATRE

Anna Christie
Young Vic

Mat will storm off into the Boston fog. There will be a happy ending of sorts.

In Eugene O'Neill territory, the boundary between the real and the overblown, tragedy and melodrama, is not just narrow. The two categories have a disconcerting habit of overlapping, leaving even his admirers unsure whether they are in one, both, or neither. At times, it is like stepping into some no-man's-land of the imagination, where the mountains are impressively craggy, but the crags may be made of papier mâché.

What is an actor to make of such stage-directions as "knuckles white on his clenched hands, face tense with the effort to suppress grief and rage" or "there is an expression in his eyes of wild mental turmoil, of impotent animal rage baffled by its own abject misery"? Both may be found in the text of *Anna Christie* and are, as it happens, relatively mild by O'Neill's standards.

Again, what can an audience make of the shipwrecked fisherman, half-dead after two days in an open boat, who looks up at the daughter of the aged salt giving him sanctuary on his barge, and cries, "whist now, me daisy, it's one of your kisses I'm needin' to take the tiredness from me bones".

That is one of the climaxes of *Anna Christie*, and not the most sensational. The title-character has just been reconciled with her father, old Chris, who does not know she has turned to prostitution during their long separation. Within a few moments of stage-time, she will have fallen in love with Mat, the rescued stoker, and be with her.

Soon, the ardent swain and jealous father will exchange words prefaced by ferocious stage-directions. Then Anna will reveal her awful secret to both, upon which

of her armpits, slumped in a bar-room chair, vaguely chewing gum, and generally exude a kind of smudged exhaustion. But O'Neill was always sympathetic to the prostitutes in his plays, not least to Anna, whose cynicism supposedly hides a yearning for purity and affection. With an openness she might have inherited from her mother, the great *Vanessa*, Richardson somehow fulfils the tricky task of being both tough and artless. She can sneer; she can silently weep; she can suddenly deliver a distraught screech, like some bereft night-creature.

That leaves me with one big complaint about Thacker's production, so fine in most respects. He is pretty successful when it comes to the difficult things, such as giving a certain ambiguity to an ending criticised as sentimental in its day, or unpretentiously coping with the persistent and portentous references to "dat ole davil sea" (sic): symbol of a fate that variously seems destructive, healing, or just plain arbitrary. In other words, he gives the giant O'Neill human stature.

Yet his direction seemed monotonously unfair to those of us sitting east-north-east in the Young Vic on opening night. For myself, I love the intimacy in-the-round can offer. But Thacker gave me too much of the Richardson back and too little of those expressive things, the Richardson eyes and mouth.

When I am watching a potentially major talent at the dawn of its career, I become a horribly greedy person. Could the management kindly provide a periscope and mirrors to be positioned opposite, the next time I see this actress in this space?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THIS was a more completely successful occasion than the parallel performance of *Idomeneo*, perhaps because the rhythmic assertiveness of the John Eliot Gardiner style better fits the formality of Mozart's last *opera seria*. In *Idomeneo*, the young Mozart was packing as much into the genre as it could handle; in *La clemenza di Tito*, right at the end of his life, he may have felt less need to strive, knowing that he could take the most stylised story and set it in obedience to the rules, and it would still be Mozart.

Of course, the plot was not of his choosing, but it could hardly have been bettered as an exemplar of grand rhetoric. Set in a Rome which combines imperial pomp with republican virtue, it provides characters whose customary manner of speaking is the *da capo aria*: all the arias but one (Vitellia's flamboyant *roondo*, late in the second act) are sung to a single other person on the stage, making the artifices of the genre seem aspects of the high politeness these people share. And because it is so very *seria* an *opera seria*, the work has a colour unique in mature Mozart: perhaps only the little duet for Sesto and Annio could have fitted into *The Magic Flute*.

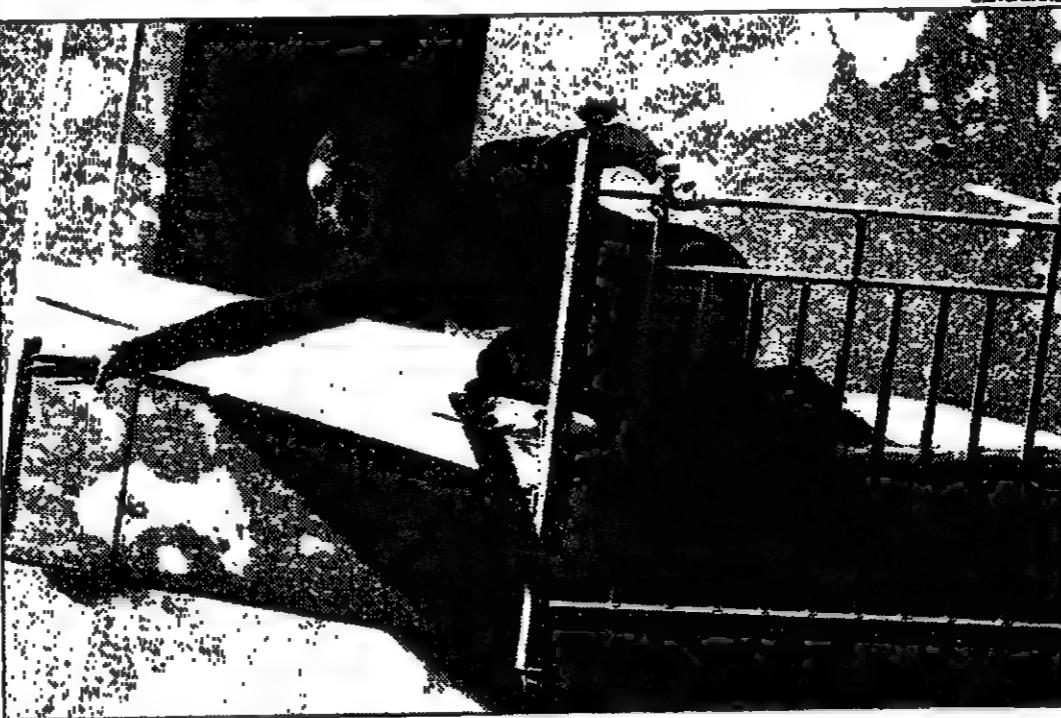
Its colour here seemed to spring out of the orchestra, whose individuals were more pronounced than in *Idomeneo*, which may be the effect of a week spent playing together. Special credit must go to a lively pair of horns, the richly buzzing bassoons, a fine, woody solo oboe and, above all, wonderfully good playing from Lesley Schatzberger in the obbligato for clarinet and bassoon: her clarinet-playing in "Patio, patio" was particularly virtuous, especially at this speed, and, justifiably, won her an ovation.

But there was applause here too for Anne Sofie von Otter, whose exquisite balance of nobility and plainness suited the role of Sesto even better than that of Idamante: this was in every bar a beautiful, perfectly controlled performance. As such, it inevitably bore out the view of Sesto as the opera's most sympathetic character, though a powerful case for the emotional life of Tito was made by Anthony Rolfe Johnson. Singing with even finer modulation between registers than in *Idomeneo*, he revealed the beauty of Tito's music, the brilliance (notably in his last aria) and the force of his moral dilemma.

On the other hand, Sylvia McNair was disappointing as Servilia after her remarkable Idia, her brightness and perfection now merely toy-like, though, admittedly, this is a less important and interesting role. Julia Varady's Vitellia was most impressive in the gleam and intensity of a strong upper register, the lower-lying passages being chesty and uncoordinated with the rest.

Catherine Robbin provided a marvellously polished and radiant Annio, a model of Mozart singing; Cornelius Hauptmann, though singing with appealing firmness and warmth, tried too hard for expression in Publio's aria. The Monteverdi Choir were perfectly drilled and made a positive contribution, perhaps a little too positive at the end. There will be repeat performances tonight and next Thursday.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Half a brass bedstead, hanging off the wall: Kristine Ciesinski as Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*

TOURING OPERA: ENO IN MOSCOW

Could this be another triumph that I see before me?

Nick Worrall on Soviet audience reaction to unconventional Verdi

Opera in Soviet theatres can be memorable, but definitely on the conservative side, even stodgy. So human blood coloured a weird green-black (however clever the metaphor involved), or Lady Macbeth pouring out her verbal poison from half a brass bedstead embedded in a wall 20 feet above the ground, must be fairly hard for a Soviet opera-goer to take.

Then there is the decision to set Verdi's masterpiece in a murderous dictatorship some time in the 1940s, to judge by the secret-police's hats and the women's costumes. The parallels are not explicit, nor is the picture consistent, but there are nasty reverberations of Stalin's Russia. The full truth of that ghastly era is only now being revealed to a population which is unaccustomed to historical revelation and is still trying to take in the horror of the recent past.

When this David Pountney production was first seen, in London in April, it was judged provocative even by the standards of recent Coliseum stagings. Its mixture of jackboots and kitchen-sink, the bizarre appearances of such incongruous items as a typewriter, all added up to a potent controversy which bubbled merrily in the British press for several days.

However, any nervousness which the touring English National Opera might have had about the first performance in Moscow's mighty Bolshoi Theatre was swept away on Thursday night in a tide of emotion and affection. One of the world's more critical audiences decided to forgive — perhaps even enjoy — the peculiar staging and acclaim the ENO for its passionate style and musical professionalism.

"Today's a holiday, a holiday. It's wonderful," said Alexander Gresham, an assistant professor of English literature at Moscow University, with great enthusiasm. "It's a marvellous, first-class thing. But I do have to say that I like my Verdi classical."

This was still the point. Soviet audiences, although comparatively comfortable with avant-garde productions in the spoken theatre, have had little chance until now to see up-to-the-minute

Western opera productions. What is normally presented by the Bolshoi is absolutely mainstream tradition.

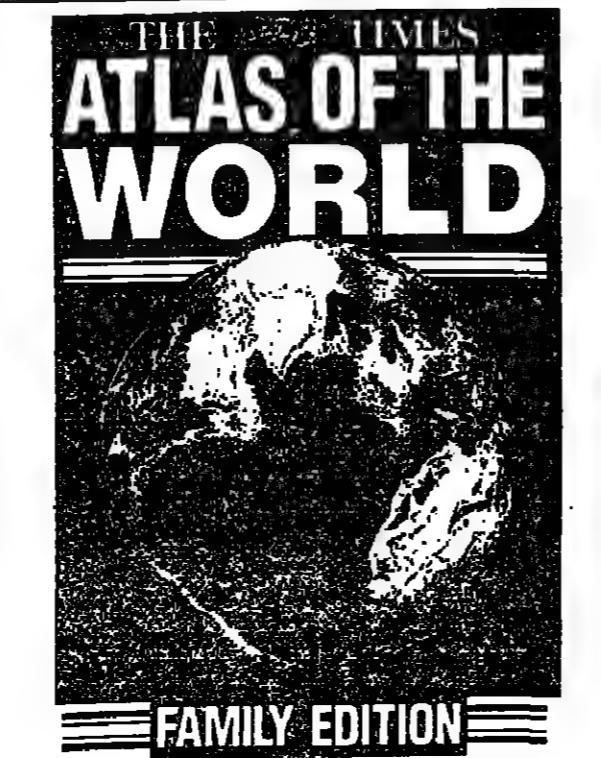
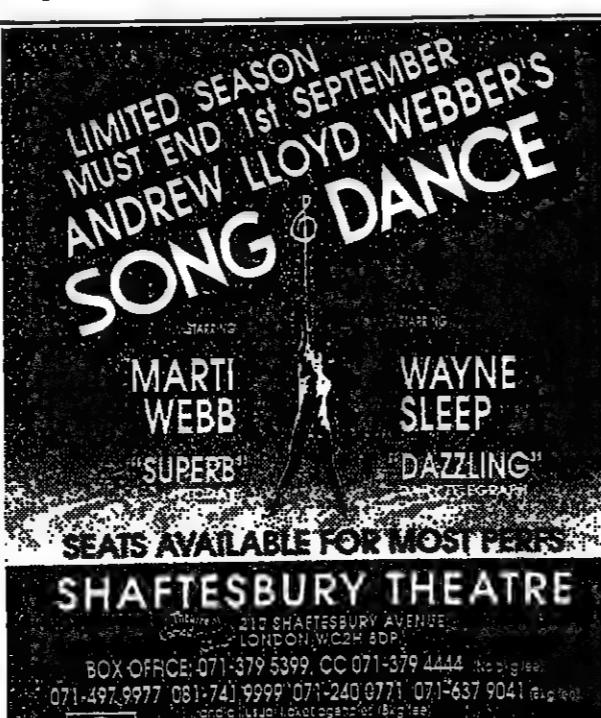
Here, as in Kiev last week (where ENO triumphantly performed Handel's *Xerxes* and Britten's *Turn of the Screw*), the Bolshoi audience was treated to an imaginative production, relying heavily on technology which is locally unavailable, and fine acting from the players. This is in complete contrast to Soviet opera stars, who are known for a tendency to deliver their set-pieces rooted to the spot.

Two women seated in the stalls frankly did not like what they saw. In the first interval one grumbled: "We're fed up with our grey reality. We wanted to see something beautiful." "We are hoping in the next act the costumes might be a little more kingly and queenly," added the other, unimpressed by Lady Macbeth's jumpsuit and her husband's dowdy outfit. Scarlet robes and paper crowns were indeed forthcoming, but it was not clear whether the pair left satisfied.

Alexander Gusev is a top theatre official in the Soviet promotion and production monopoly, Goskonsert. He is a former Bolshoi dramaturge and a leading opera critic, who was hoping that ENO would bring its celebrated Jonathan Miller production of *The Mikado* to Moscow. But, acknowledging the absence of a Gilbert and Sullivan tradition in the Soviet Union, he acceded to their preference for *Macbeth*.

"For some of our public this is a shocking production," he said. "But we wanted to demonstrate the ENO's production style, because it is necessary to give an impression for the future of what is possible."

Gusev's view was that the audience had been bewildered for the first 10 minutes or so, but then had not been able to resist becoming involved in the vitality and drama of the production. The enthusiasm of the applause that broke out at every full stop in the music showed he might be right. And while they particularly enjoyed Kristine Ciesinski and Malcolm Donnelly as the murdering married couple, conductor Mark Elder received special applause for



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Wagner: Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Schwarzkopf/Hopf/Unger/Edeleman/Kunz. Bayreuth Festival Orch./von Karajan. EMI CHS 7 63500 2. (four CDs)

The operas Rossini wrote for Naples when he was in his mid-to-late twenties are being rediscovered one by one. It was an extraordinarily fecund period, even for that most fecund of composers. He took themes from every area: biblical (*Mosè*), classical (*Manno*), tragic (*Ermione*), even romantic (*La donna del lago*). But usually he worked on a grand scale, demanding everything and a bit more too from his singers.

Zelmira is one of the last of the Neapolitan line to have late 20th century life breathed into it. Erato's new recording is based on a concert performance, claimed to be the first full-length revival in our time, at the Fcine in Venice, which was then put in the studios in Vicenza. Richard Osborne, who has the double merit of being a Rossini enthusiast and a Rossini scholar, is a bit sniffy about *Zelmira* in his book in the *Master Musicians* series, still the best modern study of the composer. "Petrified" is the adjective he uses twice in its strictly stony sense.

At the start it is easy to see why. *Zelmira* takes a long time to get going. The fault is partly that of Rossini and partly that of a dull and growly performance by José Garcia as Poldoro, the deposed king who has been hidden away for his own safety by his daughter Zelmira. The setting is Lesbos, but the goings-on are far from gay. However, with the arrival from Troy of Zelmira's husband, Ilio, matters take a distinct upturn musically.

Ilio is one of the two strongly contrasted high tenor roles. Walter



Casual skill: Dimitri Hvorostovsky, the 28-year-old Russian baritone, rehearsing in London with the London Philharmonic Orchestra

Mateuzzi brings to the Trojan Prince the bright, flexible tone he gave recently to Almaviva on record. Chris Merritt as his rival Antenor is altogether more beefy in timbre. Both men are required to scale considerable vocal heights and they do it with much aplomb and with remarkably few slithers on the mountain tops.

Rossini wrote the title role for his future wife, Isabella Colbran, and in the style of the time, which was to be followed by Donizetti, gave her a mighty aria to close the opera. Cecilia Gadisa carries this off with much gracefulness and vocal skill. Fare deals Zelmira a dirty hand until this serene close, but also much distinguished music including two notable duets, one with Ilio and the other with her confidante, Emma. A mezzo new to me, Barbara Fink,

makes an excellent showing in the latter role.

Claudio Scimone, who has done a lot to spur on the Rossini revival, uses what sounds to be a smallish orchestra. His approach is generally brisk, but he is quite ready to slow down when Rossini wants to savour the combination of, say, harp and cor anglais. All in all, a cherishable account of an opera which sounds in performance much less petrified than it might have looked on paper.

Dmitri Hvorostovsky is the youngest in the line of baritones Russia appears to be turning out with such ease at the moment. A clever combination of Verdi and Tchaikovsky arias, two groups of each interspersed, show many of the strengths of the voice. There is an admirable steadiness, ample support and a preparedness to

unleash a bit of venom, as in the father's aria from Act I of Verdi's *Luisa Miller*. Finest of all is the strain of melancholic resignation that comes out in one of the best tracks, Yelensky's scene from *The Queen of Spades* — very Russian, but pretty rare from someone aged only 28.

Excellent support comes from the Rotterdam Philharmonic under Hvorostovsky's fellow countryman, Valery Gergiev, who is now artistic director of the Kirov Opera. Aged 35, Gergiev will soon qualify for veteran status.

Herbert von Karajan was a little over 40 when he came to Bayreuth in 1951 for *Meistersinger*. Maybe the excitement engendered by the return of Wagner's comedy to its true home inspired Karajan to conduct so passionately. The over-

ture has a fervour that he totally rejected when he made his much more lyrical studio recording of *Meistersinger* 20 years later. But there is room for both on CD and the Bayreuth version, despite its warts, blemishes and occasional imbalance of sound, gives a real sense of occasion.

Otto Edelmann's Sachs has its critics at the time, but many an opera house would be grateful for him now. The same applies to the Walther of Hans Hopf, whose acting might have been crude, especially in Italian opera, but who was a genuine *Helden tenor*. Less controversy surrounded Schwarzkopf (Eva), Kunz (Beckmesser) and Unger (David): they were simply the best around. In a performance like this it is almost possible to hear Germany arising from the ashes of war.

JAZZ

Smooth Waters among the reeds

Clive Davis

Benny Waters: Hearing is Convincing (Muse 600-620)
Scott Hamilton: Tenorshoes (Concord CCD-4127)
Coleman Hawkins: With The Section (Savoy 650-134)

Every year or so Benny Waters sweeps through Britain to remind us that he is one of the last active links with the era of Fletcher Henderson and King Oliver. Aged 88, he is still capable of playing saxophone and clarinet with all the excitement and bravado of a 30-year-old.

Hearing is Convincing will bring some consolation to those who missed his last visit some weeks ago. Recorded in Rudy Van Gelder's Englewood studio in June 1987, the album is another example of Waters's ability to create first-class music with next to no effort. The tenor and alto choruses, which burst on to the opening track, "Topsy", set the tone for the rest of the session.

Waters scarcely allows the momentum to drop, pausing only for a polished vocal on the novelty song "Hit that five, Jack", as Don Coates's rhythm section pads along behind him. The leader's habit of switching between reed instruments in mid-song gives the quartet added depth. The strongest piece, "Strollin' Along the Rhine", cuts back and forth between a scorching tenor and more a nimble solo on the clarinet.

Scott Hamilton, Waters's junior by half a century, is building a healthy career with an approach which owes much to the swing



Swinging at 88: Benny Waters

ethos. His last album, devoted entirely to ballads, showed him continuing to grow in stature. *Tenorshoes* takes us back more than 10 years to a studio date with some familiar Concord names: Dave McKenna (piano), Phil Flanagan (bass) and Jeff Hamilton (drums). Apart from a limp round of statutory bossa nova on "The Shadow of Your Smile", this is a thoroughly satisfactory date.

The common thread running through the work of Waters and Hamilton, naturally, is Coleman Hawkins. Enthusiasts may wish to note the re-appearance of two of his lesser-known dates. The first, recorded in Chicago in 1954 with drummer Buddy Smith and an unidentified group, is a scrawny recorded collection, including "September Song" and "They Can't Take That Away from Me". The other pieces are taken from a 1958 gathering at Van Gelder's with a nine-piece featuring Frank Foster and Nat Pierce.

JAZZ UPDATE

Various Artists: Jazz on a Summer's Day (Castle Recording Video HEN2-239), 77 minutes. Despite the biffs' complaints about the cutaways of yachts and crowds, Bert Stern's film of the 1958 Newport Festival remains a bewitching portrait of an age of innocence.

Various Artists: Jazz at Ronnie's (Castle Recording Video HEN2 240), 90 minutes. A generally lively compilation of recent performances at the club, including extracts of Anita O'Day, Nina Simone and Chet Baker. Roy Ayers's jazz-funk is probably for party-goers only.

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 34 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act must have sustained a recording

career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted on to index cards and stored in a 6in by 4in filing box, available

from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

In future, this feature will appear in the Arts pages of *The Times* on Fridays.

VAN MORRISON



Stylish: Morrison

Despite his harsh timbre, non-chalance, timing and impossible enunciation, Van Morrison is one of the most expressive and distinctive singers the UK has produced. The range of stylistic influences which his music incorporates is staggering. A jaunty, easy-going strut such as "Bright Side Of The Road", from *Into The Music* (1979), casually embraces folk-tinged fiddle, bluesy harmonica, a soul band brass section, countinued banjo-picking and neo-gospel beacking vocals, all jostling merrily behind Morrison's gruff, apparently throwaway delivery. In "Jackie Wilson Said", from *St. Dominic's Preview* (1972), a riot of jazz horns stretches like a string of gaily fluttering flags across the strident bass line. Much has been made of the bold streak of Celtic mysticism which distinguishes Belfast-born Morrison's work, notably the outstanding *Astral Weeks*, released to public indifference in 1968. His collaboration with the Chieftains, *Irish Heartbeat* (1988), is a magnificent celebration of the folk roots at the heart of his music.

NEXT WEEK: New Order, Randy Newman.

NEVILLE BROTHERS

The Neville Brothers — Aaron, Art, Charles and Cyril — impart a chunk of their native New Orleans to the best of their recordings with a stirring combination of soulful melodies, shimmering percussion, rousing saxophones and languid rumble-syncoptations. The formula is topped off by Aaron's airy, tremulous falsetto, a voice of unerring purity which as long ago as 1986 had brought him to his first solo US hit with "Tell It Like It Is". Few albums

released in 1989 delighted the critics as much as the Nevilles' *Yellow Moon*, produced with rare sensitivity by Daniel Lanois but, in the UK, chart success remains elusive. The band convened in 1976 when Art and Cyril, at that time members of the Metiers (the much admired New Orleans equivalent of Booker T and the MGs), drafted Aaron and Charles to record *The Wild Tchoupitoulas*, a joyous slice of funk-ed up Mardi Gras music. The many-splendoured *Five On The Bayou* (1981) includes spellbinding versions of "The Ten Commandments Of Love", "Iko Iko" and Nat Cole's "Mona Lisa".

HANDEL'S pastoral masque, *Acis and Galatea*, composed for the Duke of Chandos and first performed at Cannons Park in 1718, quickly became one of his best-known scores. It is not hard to reason why, although, in an age when there was no such thing as a definitive musical text, the piece was subjected to many an alteration for specific performance conditions. As Robert King's note for his new recording points out, later editions even included arias in Italian and the appearance of a new character.

On this disc, however, King sticks to the 1718 score; it is a slight pity that in place of the solo cantata, "Look Down, Harmonious Saint", he did not include some of those later changes of mind by way of an appendix. Never mind, for the extra piece, composed in 1736, is one of great charm, and it is sung with an appealing lightness of voice and emotion by John Mark Ainsley.

The performance of *Acis and Galatea* can also be judged a

The music behind a masque



Lightness: John Mark Ainsley

success, and for the most part it is played gracefully by the King's Consort. Sweetly piping recorders grace Galatea's first aria, "Hush, ye pretty warbling choir", which Claron McFadden sings with a youthful bloom and plenty of eloquently flexible ornamentation. *Acis* is Ainsley once more, his tenor pushed into a touch of premature anxiety, perhaps by King's slightly hasty speed in his first contribution, "Where shall I

see the charming fair?". Damon is sung by Rogers Covey-Crump, his first aria, "Shepherd, what art thou pursuing?", should flow freely, and so it does, but here the contrast with what has gone before is perhaps not quite sufficient.

Acis's "Love in her eyes sits playing" calms things down, however, and with the gentle longing of Galatea's "As when the dove", garnished, as are many things on this disc, by a mellifluous oboe line, we are transported to the realms of a timeless pastoral idyll.

From here onwards the work progresses at a generally and appropriately relaxed pace, although there is no doubt the amorous passions or the rage of Polyphemus. Michael George possesses an ideally big-toned voice for the character of this giant. Both the chorus "Wretched lover!" and the Trio "The flocks shall leave the mountains", are given with plenty of vividly contrasting colour. Each of these numbers brews dramatic tension by means of a counterpoint consisting of lines conveying diametrically opposite emotions.

Acis is not a profound drama, but, with that kind of inventiveness allied to Handel's inspired lyricism in the arias, it can still stake a reasonable claim to be great music.

ROCK UPDATE

Talk Talk: The Very Best of Talk Talk — Natural History (Parlophone PCS2 109). Despite a near-invisible profile, the studio-bound trio has flirted with the lower reaches of the singles chart since 1982. "Today", "Life's What You Make It", and the current success "It's My Life" are the best known.

The Levellers: A Weapon Called the Word (Mudisc 1057/2).

Accomplished début by folk-tastic politico-rockers from Brighton. Some perky fiddle and acoustic guitar balance the earnest intent of the rather colourless vocals.

David Bowie: The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders From Mars (EMI 3577).

Complete with extra tracks, such as the single "John, I'm Only Dancing" and the previously unreleased "Velvet Goldmine" and "Sweet Head", this classic from 1972 is the latest album to emerge in the systematic re-issuing of Bowie's back catalogue.

Kevin Godley, Peter Gabriel, Sting, etc: One World One Voice (Virgin 410 904-630).

The usual charitable crowd and others in a project for television's *One World* week. The music groans with the weight of good intentions.

SPOKEN WORD

Peter Davallé

Ariott: The Voice of Cricket (BBC Radio Collection, ZBBC 1108). **King Richard III** (Collins Caedmon, CDL 5223).

CRICKET commentaries, on rare occasions, are just what John Ariott says they ought to be, and what he has proved they can be: just one step down from poetry, painting, and other kindred arts. They can also be lessons in anatomy and philosophy, as we learn from two of the 20-odd snippets from his commentaries.

Watching Compton make a short-arm jab during the 1954 second Test at Trent Bridge, Ariott tells the radio audience that depended on him for pictorial evidence: "He drew his left arm so far back into his stomach that it's a wonder he didn't elbow himself in the spine." And of Gower's four in the first over of his first Test (Edgbaston, 1978), Ariott opines: "If that doesn't make him feel better, then he's a

very odd young man as well as a brilliant one". Ariott's characteristically economical use of words fails only once. "How tragic", he says four times when Boycott runs out Randall in the 1977 Test at Trent Bridge.

At no point is Robert Stephens in danger of imitating Olivier's Richard III in the Shakespearean Recording Society production, transferred from LPs with all its 210 minutes intact. This is Stephens in his glorious summer, perfectly clear in his own mind as to what Richard had in his. Fine support from Peggy Ashcroft, Ian Holm and Paul Curran.

Artist with words: Ariott

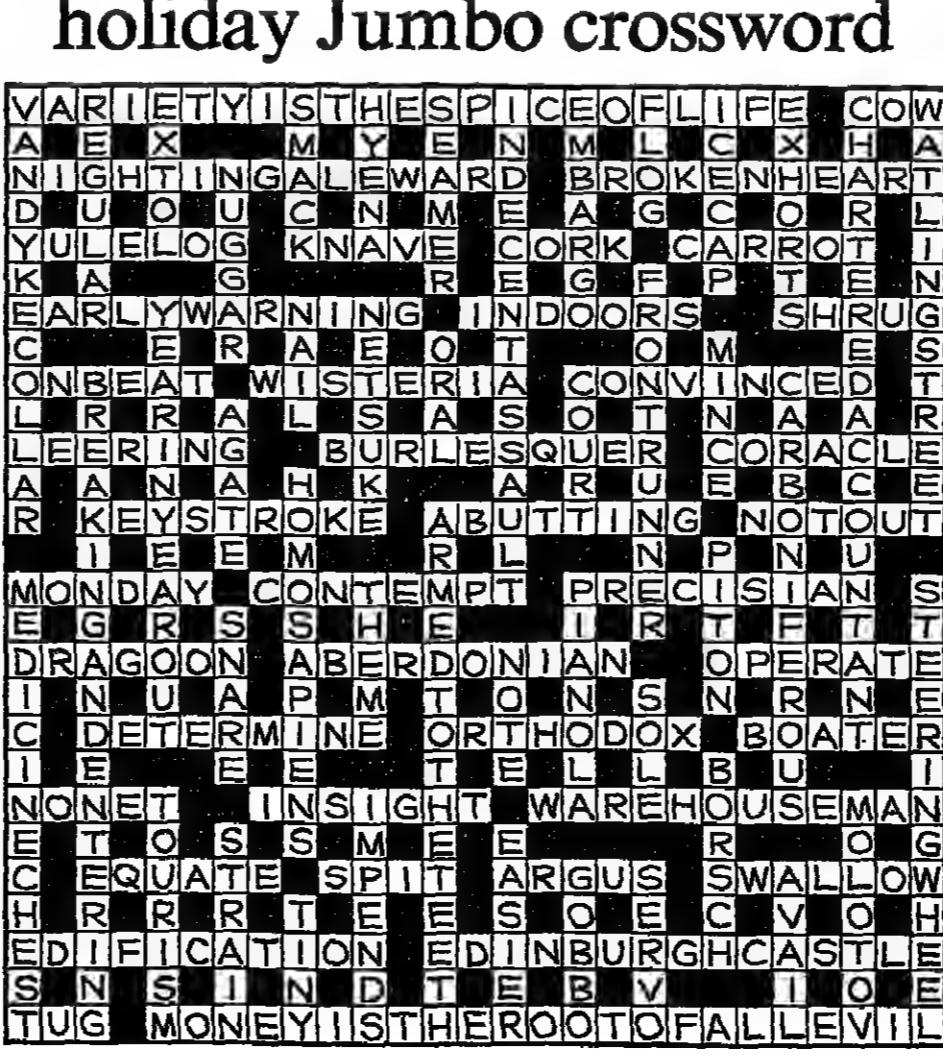
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Solution to the Spring bank holiday Jumbo crossword



GARDENING

Francesca Greenoak discovers how the National Trust is training youngsters to become the head gardeners of the future

Where raw enthusiasm blossoms

The head gardener of the past is a legendary figure; a repository of arcane skills, expert knowledge, and with absolute power over the green domain which was his empire. A learner-gardener, even in the first decades of this century, would start life washing pots, barrowing and mixing soil, without even handling a plant for perhaps a year or more. The business of learning the trade took place slowly and over many years until, for some, senior positions were reached.

Modern gardeners are drawn mostly from the agricultural and horticultural colleges, with fewer individuals trained in situ. Because gardening is not well-paid, however, there is a problem about getting applicants of the highest calibre because they are drawn off to other areas, such as landscaping and designing, or they do not consider gardening a creditable career. I should say at this point that the senior gardeners that I encounter are invariably engaging and self-reliant characters.

The National Trust is worried about its potential to attract gardeners of similar distinction in the future. Demographic figures show that over the next few years there will be fewer youngsters than jobs. With this in mind, the Trust has initiated a form of training linked to the government's youth training scheme (where it undertakes to train suitable youngsters drawn directly from school), the Trust supplementing the money allowed under the scheme to make a more attractive wage.

Trainees work in some of the most famous NT gardens: at Lanhydrock, Treissick and Cotehele in Cornwall, at Peckover House in Cambridgeshire, Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, Stowe, Gardens, Buckinghamshire, Montacute, Somerset, and Saltram, Devon. I visited the large, semi-formal gardens at Speke Hall, on the north bank of the River Mersey, a few miles to the south-east of Liverpool, to meet trainee Stuart Webster, who is studying under the head gardener, Gary Rainford,

who has worked at this medieval house for 15 years.

As we walked around the 37 acres of formal courts, shrubberies and restorations, I was impressed by Stuart's enthusiasm and the breadth of experience he had acquired during his nine months in the garden. He had thought of going into the RAF but went to Speke after hearing about the Trust's scheme because he had always been interested in gardening, although he had never thought of it as a career.

His work has included planting and shaping formal hedging and embanking the stream in the woodland valley garden restoration. He is learning how to carry out seasonal maintenance on the wide shrubberies which flank the house, with their fine, black pine trees and unusually tall, cone-shaped clipped hollies. This area was designed and planted when Richard Watt owned the house in the mid 19th century and includes the range of Victorian favourites such as rhododendrons, yuccas and pampas grass.

Stuart seems to have developed a wisdom beyond his years. He was proud of being able to mow the long lawns which apron on to the main view of the house in a way a regular groundsman would approve. At Speke, this task is complicated by a remarkable low-growing heather patch in part of the lawn which requires a special regime to conserve it.

Acquiring the skills of discreet staking in the herbaceous border, he impressed even his demanding instructor — "He not only picked it up quickly, but was soon doing a better job than I did". Staking at Speke is done with birch branches (although it could be any readily available wood) stuck firmly into the earth around the plant, in this case peonies, bringing the plant through the loose frame. Stuart's idea was to bend and weave the twigs, making a stronger framework to support the heavy stems and foliage, a practice which could be usefully borrowed in many a domestic garden where heavy plants such as peonies or heliotropes look unattractively floppy.

Stuart admitted he "had not



realised how much there was to keeping things going in a garden such as Speke".

Because the scheme aims at all-round proficiency, he will have to travel to another Trust property, Tatton Park in Cheshire, to gain glasshouse and propagation skills. The training also involves a short residency at the horticultural college at Cannington, Somerset, where he will learn the science and theory of horticulture, along with trainees from other parts of the country.

Each student keeps a diary of the work he or she does throughout the training period. They also do one special project. Stuart did his on the two ancient yew trees (called Adam and Eve) which stand in the central

courtyard at Speke and are said to be older than the 15th century house. They were recently pruned to let light down to the lower branches, some of which had to be wired.

The Trust's course lasts two years, leading to a nationally recognised qualification (National Vocational Qualification, which is equivalent to City and Guilds). The Trust does not automatically offer jobs at the end of the course. "We see ourselves as increasing the pool of trained craftsmen and helping to reverse the low attention given to gardening as a career," says John McKennell, who is in charge of the scheme, "although we hope that some of the trainees end up working for the Trust."

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WEEKEND TIPS

- For larger roses to use in vases, cut off the smaller cluster buds leaving a single central one.
- Thin greenhouse grapes to one bunch on every shoot.
- Harvest fruit and vegetable crops regularly.
- Take cuttings from hebes, ceanothus, skimmias, fuchsias and citrus plants.
- Prune out dead or damaged wood on plum, pear and peach trees.

GARDENS TO VISIT

LINCOLNSHIRE. Marston Hall (turn off A142m N of Grantham to Marston village). Sixteenth-century house, and garden with notable trees, including wych elm and laburnum. Combined entry £1.20. Child 75p. Tomorrow 2-6pm.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Oving (5m NW Aylesbury, signed off the A413 at Whitchurch). Oving Village Gardens: five gardens, including 1-acre Manor Close, and small Wall Cottage on three levels; both gardens in Manor Road. New cottage gardens at Milton Cottage, The Green. Combined entry £1.50, child free. Tomorrow 2-6pm.

YORKSHIRE. Shandy Hall, Coxwold (between Easingwold and Thirsk, turn E from the A19 to Coxwold). Eighteenth-century walled garden with unusual plants and low-walled beds. Wild garden in adjoining quarry; 1, child free. Tomorrow 2-6pm.

DYFED. Head Castle (1m N of Saundersfoot). Take Wisemans Bridge road from Saundersfoot or the Sardis road from Kigety. Two-acre gardens with mixed borders, rose garden, walled garden and greenhouse, pot plants and troughs, good views; 1, child 50p. Tomorrow 11am-6pm.

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WALKS

Cley next the Sea, Norfolk

The Norfolk Coast Path and the Peddars Way combine to become a long distance route (LDR) along the Norfolk heritage coast, which stretches from Holme-next-the-Sea to Salthouse. This circular walk takes in lonely saltmarshes, small villages, vast barley fields, quiet country lanes and deciduous woodland where

tight singeing gongs.

Start at the coastguard lookout car park by the shingle bank north of Cley next the Sea. Walk along the LDR on its lofty bank with the River Glaven meandering through saltmarsh on the right. Here in reed-fringed pools reed bunting and sedge warblers court and sing.

SHOPPING

A little touch of quality in the sunlight

Portability is the key to unruffled travelling this summer. Think small, in terms of lightweight, foldable luggage and miniaturised technology. A check around the shops by Nicole Swengley yielded this selection of sunny ideas



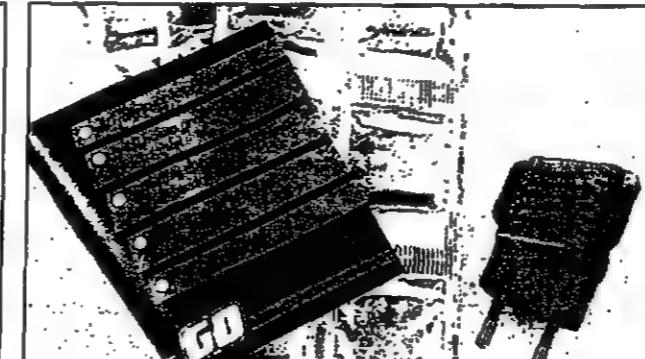
The sizzling colours of Heal's Ravenna bath sheet, £21.50, are likely to put other beach towels in the shade. From Heal's, 196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-636 1666)



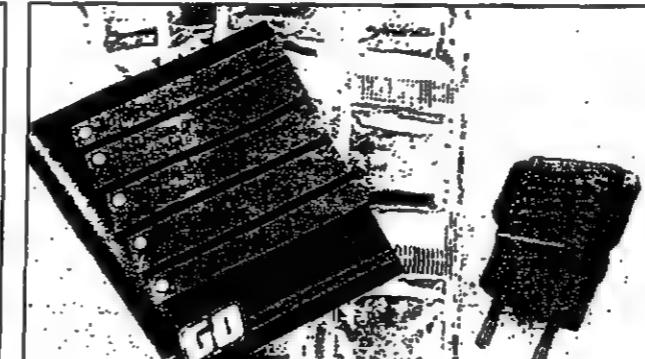
Mini tool kit includes a knife, saw/grip, spirit level, measure and screwdrivers in a credit-card size gadget; £16.50 from General Trading Co. Right: Strappy Red Ten sandals, £25.99, come in pink, blue, black or white from the Selfridges Selection summer sale catalogue (details 0800 100188)



The Philips Voyager 11 folding hairdryer (110/240V), has two power settings and comes in a travelling pouch; £12.99 from Selfridges and other stores



Swiss diving watch, Formula 1 by Tag Heuer, is water-resistant to 200m. It comes in blue, black, silver, yellow, grey or orange, and costs £99 from Authentique, 42 Shelton Street, (071-240 9845)



Mosquito-Go, an electric mosquito-killer, has vapour-producing tablets which last for eight to 10 hours. Thirty tablets come with the plug; £2.95 from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1 (071-639 1234)

Compact toothbrush, £1.95, folds up into a slimline case to carry in pocket or handbag. Available in various colours from Way In, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-730 1234)

Finding a word for it

Pocket-sized, battery-operated foreign language translators are being hailed as the answer to a traveller's prayer (Nicole Swengley writes). But how good are they? I asked two frequent travellers to test four types.

Nigel Lewis, marketing manager for BOC's Continental European Gases, used them on business trips, while Shona Crawford Poole, The Times travel editor, had typical two-week holidaymakers in mind during her tests.

Here are their comments, and ratings:

• **Fanfare Advanced Translator**, £39.95. Five languages: English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Contains more than 2,600 words in each language. Instant word conversions from one language to another. Non-QWERTY keyboard.

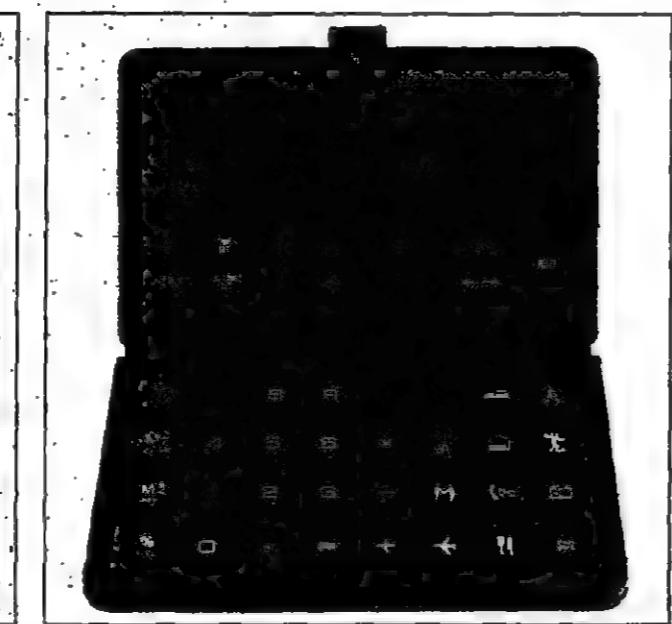
Can be converted to include seven additional languages – Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian, Danish, Yugoslavian, Greek and Portuguese. Stockists include WH Smith, Harrods, Duty Free shops. It is also available direct from Fanfare Electronics Division, 3 Finsbury Square, EC2 (071-638 7953).

Nigel Lewis: Simple and easy to use – no need to consult the instruction booklet – but disappointing. Good buttons and a functional design, although it has a small display screen; more than eight letters and you're off it altogether. The machine is best for students, as its vocabulary is limited.

Shona Crawford Poole: A neat, lightweight machine with a loose lid that could get lost. Simple to use. However, finding words is a problem. Although there are said to be 2,600 words in each language, I could not find obvious ones such as "sun" or "sunglasses". Such a product would be useful for Thai, Greek or Russian, where one is slower to recognise the words because of the different alphabets.

Rating: 6 out of 10

• **Berlitz Interpreter**, £79.95. Five languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Italian, with 12,500 words in each. Also included are 300 phrases per language. Two-line, 20-character screen and QWERTY keyboard. Can also be used as an alarm clock, calculator and currency converter. LCD display with two lines of 20 characters. Available by mail order.



Left: Fanfare Advanced Translator, making sense of foreign alphabets but not so sure on the obvious Right: Uni-Com Phrasemaster, adding an alarm clock and calculator to the business of translation

function as a calculator and currency converter. Stockists include Harrods, all branches of John Lewis, Argos, WH Smith, Duty Free shops.

Further details from Zeeon Limited's Consumer Electronics Division, 39 Waterford Road, Staples Corner, NW2 (081-208 1833) Zeeon's Berlitz Eurotraveler, £99.95, a 10-language phrase translator, including Danish, Portuguese, Norwegian, Dutch and Swedish, is also new but was not available at time of testing.

Nigel Lewis: The design is not outstanding, but is compact. You can miss a letter easily on the keyboard. However, performance is 50 per cent better than the Fanfare.

Shona Crawford Poole: A compact machine with big buttons, but there is no facility to key in words for translation. The questions asked in the 10 categories are well-chosen, although obviously cannot deal with everything.

Rating: 7 out of 10

• **Uni-Com Phrasemaster**, £99, incl. p&p. Five languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, with 13,000 phrases in each. A "teach mode" selects random words and phrases for developing language skills.

Quick reference facility provides 50 commonly used phrases stored under five categories – eating, shopping, socialising, courtesies and assistance. QWERTY keyboard. Simultaneous audio translation with male or female voice option. Earphone provided.

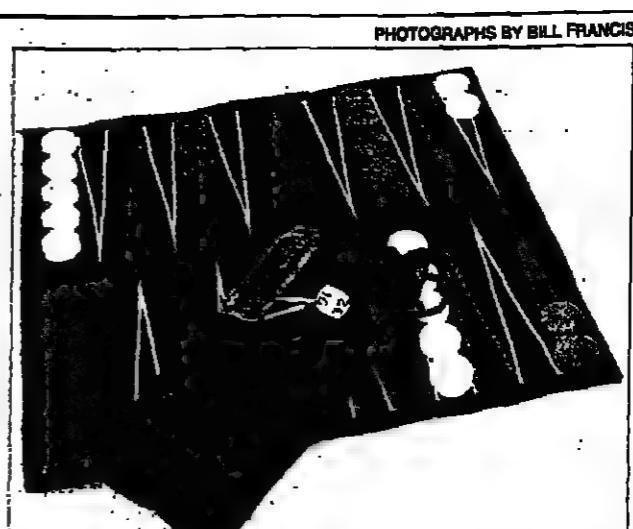
Available by mail order

• **Interpreter**, £149.95 plus £2.95 p&p. Five languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, with 13,000 phrases in each. These are divided into 10 categories – airport, hotels, dining, for example. Can also function as an alarm clock, calculator and currency converter. LCD display with two lines of 20 characters.

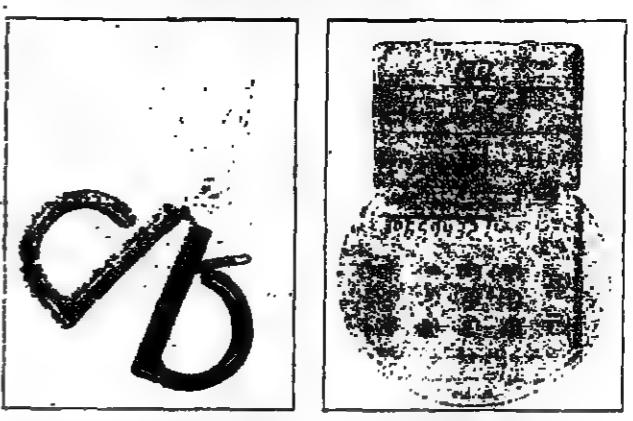
Available by mail order



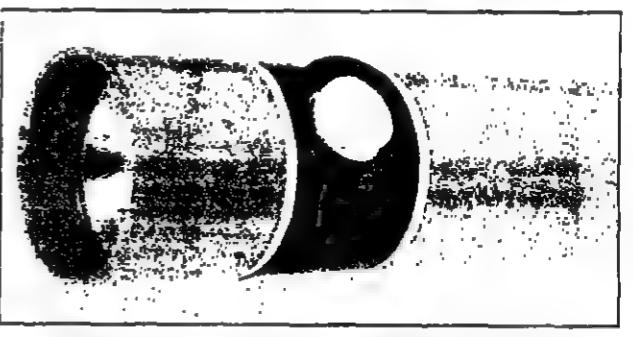
The abstract daubs on these colourful sun visors, £11.50, have been designed by Ken Done, an Australian artist. Co-ordinating sunglasses with plastic pouches, £18.95, are among Mr Done's other fashion accessories. All from Crackers, 62 Church Road, Barnes, SW13 (081-741 1254), and Whiteleys of Bayswater, Queensway, W2 (071-243 1601)



Sackgammom is played on a screen-printed cloth which rolls up with the counters and dice into a drawstring pouch for travelling. Designed by Richard Merton, it costs £36.50 by mail order from Sackgammom, 22a Lakeside Road, London W14



A neat pair of scissors with plastic travelling sleeve; £4.15 from General Trading Co, 144 Sloane Street, SW1 (071-730 0411) The Go money changer takes the headache out of currency conversion and costs £24.99 from branches of Salisburys



This Pifco waterproof torch takes three LR20 batteries or equivalent and costs £22.99 from department stores



Compact toothbrush, £1.95, folds up into a slimline case to carry in pocket or handbag. Available in various colours from Way In, Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (071-730 1234)

John Stalker recommends Nationwide Security Blinds

Former Deputy Chief Constable of Greater Manchester

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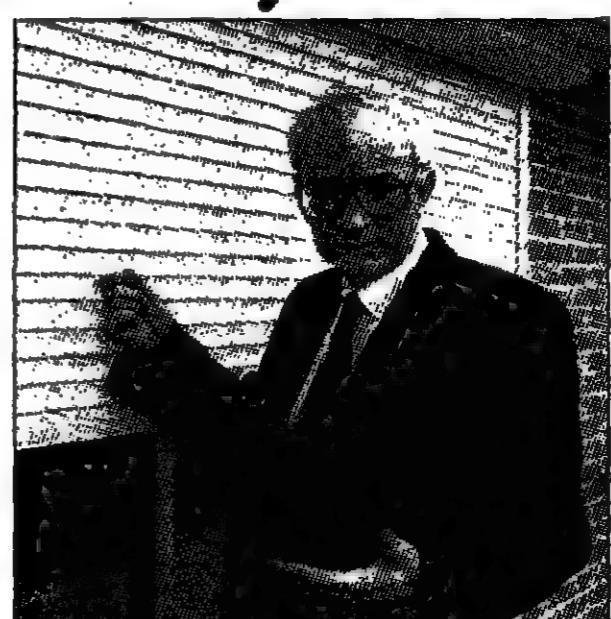
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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

JAZZ

BILL FRISSELL: An increasingly fashionable member of John Zorn's New York cabaret, the ECM guitarist is back with his band featuring oddball cellist Hank Roberts.

Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (071 928 8800) Mon; Leeds Irish Centre (0532 742486) Wed; Band On The Wall, Manchester (061 832 8825) Thurs.

TED HEATH BAND: Nostalgia rules as trombonist Don Lusher supervises such swing alumni as Jack Parnell and Kenny Baker. Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071 638 6681) Fri.

OLIVER CROMWELL JAZZ FESTIVAL: Trad and mainstream in the hedgerows with Beryl Bryden, Duncan Swift and others. Various venues, Upton-upon-Severn (info 05645 3254) Fri-Sun June 24.

ROCK

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL: For the keen price of £38 (in advance only), the usual discomfort and squalor may be endured on behalf of CND. Music from a legion of acts including the Cure, Del Amitri, the Hollies, the Kinks, Ry Cooder & David Lindley, Aswad, Steeleye Span, Happy Mondays, Green On Red, etc.

CONCERTS

REQUIEM ENCOUNTER: As part of "A Mozart Encounter" a way of preparing us for the bicentenary next year of the great man's death, John Eliot Gardiner, the English Baroque Soloists and other soloists such as Sophie von Otter perform what all too aptly was his last work, the *Requiem*. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071 928 8800). Tomorrow.

RELATIVELY SPEAKING: Wimera of last year's Dudley National Piano Competition, Richard Gauntford makes his London debut not only with George Benjamin's *Relativity* Rag but also with such fiercely and differently demanding works as Brahms's *Paganini Variations*, Rachmaninov's *Sonata No 2* and Schubert's late C minor Sonata. Wigmore Hall, London W1 (071 935 2141) Tues.

HOUGH'S HUMMEL: The brilliant Stephen Hough solo with the ECO under Marcelo Viotti in Hummel's little-known but delightful A minor Piano Concerto. This is an enterprising programme altogether, with further rarities such as Mendelssohn's *Die Heimkehr aus der Fremde* Overture.

ELGAR, BRAHMS: André Previn's "Festival of Brahms and Elgar" with the RPO also consists entirely of standard repertoire works and starts with the Englishman's first international success, the "Enigma" variations. Also heard are his *Cockaigne* overture and, with Viktoria Mullova as soloist, Brahms's *Violin Concerto*. Festival Hall (as above) Thurs.

OLYMPIC MANCHESTER: Gala to launch Olympic Festival events from five continents includes Dame Kiri Te Kanawa singing Richard Strauss with Sir Georg Solti conducting the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra. Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061 831 7766/7733) Tomorrow.

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James, Jesus Jones, etc.
Worthy Farm, Pitton, Shropshire (071 711-251 0027) Fri for three days.

DE LA SOUL: Celebrated "Daisy Age" rappers. A marvel on record but so unsure of themselves on stage that their record company refused to allow the press access to review their last shows.

PRINCE: Reports from Europe speak of a "back to basics" show with more emphasis on the little fellow's superlative stagecraft and less on high-tech set design. Wembley Arena (081-902 1234) Tues, Wed, Fri.

WORLD PARTY: "Ship of Fools" group fronted by ex-Waterboys keyboardist Karl Wallinger. Pursuing a fashionably ecological theme on their strong second album, *Goodbye Jumbo*. Nottingham Polytechnic (0602 476725) tomorrow; Newcastle (081 232 8402) Mon; Irish Centre, Leeds (052 480887) Tues; Royal Court, Liverpool (051 709 4321) Thurs; International, Manchester (061 839 0858) Fri.

THE NEVILLE BROTHERS: Stirring combination of soulful melodies and languid rumba-funk syncopations topped off by Aaron Neville's sweet, airy falsetto. Town & Country, London NW5 (071-284 3033) Tues-Thurs; Glastonbury (as above) Fri.

and Rietz's cheerful Clarinet Concerto (Thea King, soloist). Barbican Centre, London EC2 (071-638 8891) Tues.

MEMORY LANE: In contrast, the City of Birmingham SO keep to the reassuringly familiar in the second concert of their summer season as Tadaaki Otaka conducts them in Mendelssohn's *Finale's Höhle Overture*, Bruch's Brahms-like Violin Concerto No 1 with Kurt Nikisch as soloist and Dvořák's "New World" Symphony.

Town Hall, Birmingham (021 332 3889) Wed.

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REVENGE (18): Faltering version of Jim Harrison's novella about a doomed love triangle in Mexico, starring Kevin Costner as a retired Navy pilot playing with fire by

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TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT (15): Worthy Holocaust drama — the first film entirely at Auschwitz — with Wilm Haeftel as a Greek boxing champion forced to fight for his survival. Director, Robert M. Young. Odeon Mezzanine, London WC2 (071-839 1929). From Fri.

KIROV BALLET: Reinforced from Leningrad, the company performs this week in three English cities.

London sees *The Sleeping Beauty*, Mon-Thurs, while Manchester has *Giselle* Mon-Thurs and a programme with *Les Sylphides* and gals showpiece numbers Fri, Sat.

London Coliseum (071-836 3181); Palace, Manchester (061 236 9922).

NETHERLANDS DANCE THEATRE 2: A lively young modern company affiliated to the famous troupe in The Hague. Works by Kilian and Van Manen and given Tues and Wed; young choreographers Nacho Duato and Odad Naharin contribute to that programme and provide the whole bill Thurs-Sat.

Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET: Two popular comedies this week — *La Fille mal gardée* Mon-Thurs, *Hobson's Choice* Fri and Sat June 23.

Birmingham Hippodrome (021-822 7480).

CUMBRE FLAMENCA: Gypsy dance and music from Spain. Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (071 278 8916). Tues-Sat.

THE END OF THE 20TH CENTURY: A Giant's Causeway of a sculpture by Joseph Beuys made from 30 hexagonal basalt boulders. Armitage D'Offay, London W1 (071-499 4100). From Fri.

ART FROM SOUTH AFRICA: Contemporary painting, sculpture, posters and crafts made by black South Africans. Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (0865 728608). From tomorrow.

THE FORMATIVE YEARS: Early paintings, 1959-65, by figurative artist Mario Dubois (1939-1985) who was a student of David Bomberg's. Boundary Galleries, London NW8 (071-824 1126). From Fri.

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DEGREESHOW: A final show for students in textiles and fine art, from Goldsmiths', one of the most acclaimed art colleges. Goldsmiths' Gallery, London SE14 (081-982 7171). From Thurs.

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LEEDS FESTIVAL: New multi-arts festival featuring Opera north, From Fri.

CINEMA

Six years ago, in *Falling in Love*, Robert De Niro fell for Meryl Streep; they made a powerful, if odd couple. Now, in *Stanley & Iris*, De Niro faces another female luminary — Jane Fonda. Simple romance, however, is not the film's concern. These are people with problems. Stanley — capable, hard-working — is inhibited by his inability to read; Iris is dogged by the memory of her late husband and the struggle to pay the bills. When Stanley loses his job at the local bakery, Iris teaches him his letters and they soon develop a close emotional bond. The film's optimistic treatment of a social issue like adult illiteracy is typical of its director, Martin Ritt. The well-crafted script similarly displays the fingerprints of Harriet Frank Jr. and Irving Ravetch, whose association with Ritt stretches back to *The Long Hot Summer* in 1957. Their source is *Union Street*, Pat Barker's novel about seven women from a British industrial town. The writers, eager to work on a story about illiteracy, selected one of these women, Iris, shipped her to New England, and then developed Stanley from a tiny reference to Iris's illiterate husband. Empire, London WC2 (071-437 1234), from Fri, certificate 15. *Geoff Brown*

THE FOURTH WAR (15): Sturdily made but antiquated Cold War thriller, with Roy Scheider and Jürgen Prochnow as army colonels pursuing a private feud across the West German-Czech border. Director, John Frankenheimer. Cannon Shakespear Avenue, London WC2 (071-836 6279). From Fri.

VINCENT AND THEO (15): Robert Altman's intelligent, sensitive study of the complex relationship between Van Gogh (Tim Roth) and his brother (Paul Putthoff); written by Julian Mitchell. Everyman, London NW3 (071-435 1525), Screen on the Green, London N1 (071-226 3520). From Fri.

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Odd couple: Jane Fonda (Iris) and Robert De Niro (Stanley)

PHOTOGRAPHY

SPANISH REPORTAGE

PHOTOGRAPHY: Aggressive reportage photography by Fernanda Herranz depicting traditional rites of the Spanish countryside; plus more lyrical scenes from the beaches of central and northern Portugal. The Special Photographers Company, London W1 (071-221 3483). From Thurs.

HAND TO EARTH: Photographs, constructions and other pleasant works contrived from coloured leaves, ice, twigs and thorns by "green" artist Andy Goldsworthy. Leeds City Art Gallery (0532 428887). From Fri.

SOUTH BANK PHOTO SHOW: An often patchy, open exhibition on London by Londoners. Foyers, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre

Robson may liberate Wright

From STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT
CAGLIARI

BOBBY Robson is likely to night to confound those critics who have accused him of being tactically inflexible. For the World Cup tie against the Netherlands, the ninth fixture of his national managerial career, he will probably include a sweeper in the England line-up.

Although the idea is unprecedented in the eight years of his reign, the man expected to be chosen for the job is no stranger to the role. Wright, before his move to Derby County, acted as a sweeper at Southampton.

Poignantly, his last full appearance for England was against the Dutch in the European championship two years ago. In the absence of Butcher, he and Adams partnered each other, and the memory of England's imbalance at the back during the 3-1 defeat in Düsseldorf may have persuaded the manager to rearrange his formation.

Then the central defenders were overstretched and the full backs were under-employed. Now Robson could redress the balance. The height of Butcher and the speed of Walker could be complemented by Wright, "the best footballing centre half in the country".

The play is courageous and imaginative. The lone misgiving is that, since Robson has previously resisted the temptation to experiment with the system, it may not run sufficiently smoothly.

Nevertheless, it is born out of necessity. Although he retained his faith in a flat back four during the unbeaten sequence of 18 games, it was evident that the traditional domestic pattern might, as in the European championship, again be exposed as inadequate when the team entered the highest class.

He considered adding a touch of creativity in the full back positions. Steven, for instance, is more adept going forward than Stevens but Robson is not prepared for England to be exposed on the flanks, especially as he foresees the Dutch attacking on a broad front with three forwards.

Pearce, the left back, and the only representative to have appeared in all 20 internationals since the European championship, and Stevens will be retained and encouraged to support the midfield whenever the opportunity arises. It rarely did on Monday but the Dutch will neither press so consistently nor so physically.

Bryan Robson, whose contribution against the Republic of Ireland on Monday was so crucial, and Gascoigne should not be overruled in midfield. Ahead of them they will have Barnes to the left, Waddle to the right, and ker in the middle. The prospect is potentially exciting.

Beardsley, who was utterly insignificant against the Irish and who promises to be the lone omission, may disappear but the overall design would seem to be the most suitable for all the talented threads. It remains to be seen whether the new plan works. As Bobby Robson appreciates, it must. "We and the Dutch both thought that we'd have two



ENGLAND (probable) 3-4-3: 1. P. Shilton; 5. D. Walker, 14 M. Wright, 6. T. Butcher, 2. G. Stevens, 19 P. Gascoigne, 7. B. Robson, 35. Pearce, 8. C. Waddle, 10. G. Lineker, 11. J. Barnes.

NETHERLANDS (probable) 4-3-2-1: H. van Bommel, 2. B. van Aerle, 4. R. Krol, 18. F. Rijkaard, 6. J. Boskamp, 7. J. P. Blaauw, 6. J. Wouda, 11. R. Witschge, 10. R. Gaal, 3. M. van Basten, 15. B. Roy.

World Cup, page 48

points by now," he said yesterday. "This was always going to be crucial, but it is even more so now. It is going to be some game for the teams, the managers, the supporters and the countries. We've got to get something out of it if we are going to go through."

"They will be in the same mood as us. Everybody thought they were disappointing against Egypt, but that does not give the Egyptians the credit they deserve. Holland are the European champions, they deserved to win that title and, like all good sides, they will come back."

The principal danger is van Basten. The scorer of all three goals against England in 1988, he is described by Lineker as "the perfect choice as the all-round centre forward". "He is quick good in the air, he can score spectacular goals from long range, and he has a delicate touch as well."

Lineker points out that van Basten's assistant, Gullit, is "the striker's dream". "He is good at getting to the byline and he puts over more crosses than anyone I've ever seen." No wonder, then, that Bobby Robson has decided to stiffen his own defence.

Ironically, Lee Beemahker may dispense with his sweeper system. Fraser, a defender, aged 23, who has been selected only three times, may be brought in specifically to contain Lineker. He could be one of three changes in a Dutch line-up which is usually subject to alterations.

Roy, a flying left winger, may be another unforeseen choice. Hence the importance of Stevens.

The Netherlands, as was clear against Egypt on Tuesday, are not as cohesive as in the past. Internal disagreements have exacerbated the problem and it is significant that Dutch journalists should be pessimistic about the eventual outcome.

An England victory would clear-cut scoring chances in the first half, but took advantage of only one. It came on the half-hour when Chovanec, who was clean through, was rashly hauled down by Lindenberg, the Austrian goalkeeper. Bilek, who had previously missed a penalty against the United States, made no mistake this time, striking the ball to Lindenberg's right.

Czechoslovakia carved four



England's new broom: Wright, right, who may act as sweeper tonight, at training with Butcher yesterday

Bilek puts
Czechs in
next round

Austria 0
Czechoslovakia 1

FLORENCE — Czechoslovakia and Italy were guaranteed passage to the next stage of the World Cup finals after the former's comfortable victory against Austria yesterday.

The Czechoslovak win means that neither Austria or the United States are capable of catching the two group A leaders. Their only hope of an extended tenure is now finishing as one of the four best third-placed countries.

Czechoslovakia carved four

Mercer receives hostile reception to his plans

By KERRY GILL

WALLACE Mercer, the chairman of Heart of Midlothian football club, yesterday announced details of his take-over plan for its arch-rivals, Hibernian, as part of his attempt to create a single premier division club for Edinburgh.

Mercer urged Hibernian shareholders to accept an offer of 40p a share, which he described as "generous". Hibernian described the offer as "opportunistic and hostile".

At a press conference, Mercer said: "Unless trading has improved dramatically since the last published figures, Hibs on its own appears to be limping towards financial relegation."

No company could forever sustain financial losses on the scale sustained by Hibernian, he said. "Either the family silver must be sold, and if Hibs are forced to sell key players in an attempt to bolster their finances the impact on future playing prospects is potentially catastrophic, or a wealthy backer must be found."

If the bid was successful, Mercer told shareholders, he would concentrate on the footballing activities of the new club, creating the strongest possible team out of the existing players from both clubs. The tangible assets, including the stadium, would be realised and the public house, restaurant and leisure related activities of Hibernian would be sold.

The offer document said: "Hibs is now an unsuccessful leisure group with a football subsidiary and the results speak for themselves. It is our intention that Edinburgh and the Lothians will be represented at the super club level by one team rather than continuing the dissipation of resources which applies at present."

Jim Gray, the managing director of Hibernian, said: "We have now received the Hibs offer document. It is quite clear that it is an opportunistic and hostile attempt to acquire Hibs' assets on the cheap and to eliminate Edinburgh Hibernian FC as a competitor. There is considerable public disquiet and resistance to the offer and the manner in which it has been made."

The board's own plans will ensure a strong, independent Hibs for the benefit of all shareholders. We see no good reason why Hearts should receive that benefit. The board will be writing to Hibs' shareholders in due course with the board's detailed response. In the meantime, however, the board's advice to shareholders is to pay no attention to Hibs' offer."

• Sunderland, recently promoted to the first division in place of Swindon Town, have pegged their season ticket prices at £89.

"We will be the cheapest in the first division," the chairman, Bob Murray, said.

Seat tickets will remain at £149 — less than half the £365 charged by fellow newcomers Leeds United — and standing tickets priced at £89.

• "It is a great honour and I am delighted," she said. "I accept it as recognition not for what I have done, but for what the whole Maiden crew has achieved."

John Lever, the former

stand-off half or centre for

Scotland between 1972 and

1979, McGeechan won 32

caps for his country. The

zenith of his playing career

was appearing throughout the

Lions' 1974 series in South

Africa, which they won 3-0.

Racing features on the hon-

our list in the shape of Peter

Scudamore, who has been

champion jump jockey six

times, including each of the

last five seasons, winning

most of the main races in the

process.

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motor-cycle sidecar champion-

ship for the third successive season.

By LOUISE TAYLOR

RICHARD Hadlee, the premier all-rounder in modern cricket, becomes a knight this morning five days before he represents New Zealand against England in the second Test at Lord's. Hadlee, who was named in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, joins an illustrious circle of cricketing knights, including Don Bradman, Len Hutton and Gary Sobers.

The leading Test wicket-taker, with 419 victims, Hadlee, who will be 39 next month, has enjoyed an 18-year international career. He delayed retirement until July to play his last series against England.

"It is the pinnacle of one's career," Hadlee said on hearing of his knighthood. "You do not go planning anything like that at all. It happens though consistent effort and work over a long period. It is obviously nice for cricket and sport in general in New Zealand, for me personally, my family and friends."

Fellow leading administrators Peter Healy, formerly chairman of the Commonwealth Games Federation and Scottish Sports Council, and Harry Cavan, a former vice-president of FIFA, the world governing body of football, receive a knighthood and CBE respectively.

Hadlee became the leading Test wicket-taker against India in Bangalore in 1988, when he claimed his 374th wicket, thereby bettering Ian Botham's record. He reached his present tally with four wickets against England at Trent Bridge.

He spent 10 years in England playing for Nottinghamshire, where he assisted their championship victories in 1981 and 1987, and their NatWest Trophy triumph in 1987.

Tracy Edwards, whose all-women crew on Maiden overcame both male prejudice and the elements to finish second in their class during the Whitbread Round the World Race, was ecstatic that her efforts had brought an MBE.

"It is a great honour and I am delighted," she said. "I accept it as recognition not for what I have done, but for what the whole Maiden crew has achieved."

John Lever, the former

stand-off half or centre for

Scotland between 1972 and

1979, McGeechan won 32

caps for his country. The

zenith of his playing career

was appearing throughout the

Lions' 1974 series in South

Africa, which they won 3-0.

Racing features on the hon-

our list in the shape of Peter

Scudamore, who has been

champion jump jockey six

times, including each of the

last five seasons, winning

most of the main races in the

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Cricket's latest knighthood is a rare recognition of bowling achievement and the first for a competing Test player

Hadlee reaps reward for hard work

IT WAS Arthur Mailey, the Australian leg spinner and a man of great and gentle wit, who first said that the last bowler to have been knighted was Sir Francis Drake. It was his way of contending that, whereas the bowlers do all the hard work, the batsmen get the chief rewards.

It is true that Richard Hadlee is the first cricketer to be thus honoured through what he has achieved by his bowling. Of the 10 others to have been knighted for "services to cricket", Sir Francis Lacey (1926) and Sir Frederick Toone (1929) were primarily administrators, Sir Pelham Warner (1937) and Sir George Allen (1986) were renowned both as players and as administrators, Sir Henry Leveson-Gower (1953) was for 60 years a pillar of Surrey cricket, Sir Donald Bradman (1949), Sir Jack Hobbs (1953), Sir Leonard Hutton (1956) and Sir Frank Worrell (1964) were batting legends, and Sir Garfield Sobers (1975) perhaps the greatest of all rounders.

Sir Neville Cardus's knighthood in 1967 was for services to music as well as cricket, on both of which he wrote with such charm and distinction. Learie Constantine's fame as a West Indian cricketer of the most dynamic kind had to do with his being knighted in 1962, though it was for exclusively political services that he was later made a life peer.

Although Bradman and Worrell each played two or three first-class games after being knighted, Hadlee will be setting a precedent if he appears on the scorecard it is for sportsmen to make the Honours Lists. Jack Hobbs, it

JOHN WOODCOCK, former cricket correspondent of *The Times*, pays tribute to Richard Hadlee, who has been knighted in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

ing, which she is not, she could have dubbed him on the field, such as she dubbed Gary Sobers before 10,000 people on the Garrison Racecourse in Barbados (where he was no less well known than at the nearby Kensington Oval) in 1975. "What's the lady doing in putting that stick on Daddy's shoulder?" asked Matthew Sobers, aged four.

Many sports can claim their knights. Football, for example, has had, among others, Sir Stanley Rous, Sir Matt Busby and Sir Stanley Matthews, Gary Sobers, aged four.

Sir Gordon Richards rode, Sir Noel Murless, Sir Cecil Boyd-Rochford and Sir Jack Jarvis trained, and Sir Piers Brougham administered their ways to racing knighthoods, and it is tempting to think that Sir Roger Bannister's historic mile at Iffley Road, Oxford, in 1954 had something to do with his catching the monarch's eye in 1975, when he was eminent, as well, in the world of neurology. On the same day in 1953 that Sir Gordon Richards passed the post so, too, did Sir Edmund Hillary, like Hadlee, a New Zealander, for having climbed the highest mountain.

That so many of those mentioned here are still alive shows how relatively recent it is for sportsmen to make the Honours Lists. Jack Hobbs, it

will be seen, was not summoned until 1953, 19 years after he had retired from first-class cricket. Now a June or January never passes without a recognition of some kind for the fast-flung game of cricket.

In the 1960s, Walter Hadlee was appointed an OBE, and no one who knows him could be surprised by the sense of commitment of his son, Richard. A distinguished captain and manager of New Zealand teams, past chairman of their cricket council and now its president, W. A. Hadlee has long been one of the game's sanest and most genuinely respected figures. Two more of his sons, Dayle and Barry, also played for New Zealand. Dayle in 26 Test matches and Barry in the Prudential World Cup of 1975.

Richard has not achieved what he has (a record 419 Test wickets, 3,017 often exhilarating Test runs, and more match-winning performances than any other cricketer since Bradman, including Sobers) without a great deal of hard work. When he was asked to talk to the Sussex bowlers the other day, during the New Zealanders' visit to Hove, he stressed that there can be no half-measures for those who aspire to succeed. If not as great a natural bowler as, say, Lindwall or Trueman or Miller or Marshall, he has become at least the equal of them all by harnessing a priceless rhythm and a fine physique to pride and a high degree of intelligent application.

Richard Hadlee has been a credit to the game, occasionally severe in the way that the great S. F. Barnes could be, but totally dedicated, absolutely fair, and always well turned out. When he has hit the batsman rather than the stumps it has not been through aiming to do so — now the device of many lesser bowlers — but because of his rare and waspish ability.

He is a strong believer in targets as a means to maximum achievement. He will be setting them, no doubt, at Lord's next week, politely indifferent to all the panegyrics.

Richard Hadlee has been a

nomination for his knighthood a month ago but, as his captain John Wright said yesterday: "We have been calling him Sir Richard for a number of years."

The New Zealand players, apparently, held a sweepstakes on if and when Hadlee would receive the award. Wright said: "It is tremendous for Richard and great for New Zealand cricket. I have never handled a knight in the field and will be getting one, I am sure, in the dressing room for sure, but these days we are all thrilled for him."

The entire game, indeed, can be thrilled for Hadlee, and gratified that his Herculean feats for a nation which, when he began, was considered distinctly second class at cricket, have been so richly recognised at such an appropriate moment.

Hadlee was first alerted to his

failures and successes in all sorts of conditions, and against some very good players."

Plainly proud, as he contemplated his retirement to the more tranquil pastime of flower-growing in less than a month from now, Hadlee said: "It has all come together in a package for me and I can get out of the game very happy, very contented, and rewarded for my efforts."

Earlier this year, Hadlee became the first bowler in history to take 400 Test wickets, a figure he has now increased to 419. He insists he confidently expects his record to be eclipsed but, for the moment, he can genuinely be called the most successful bowler the game has known.

"You don't go around claiming something like this," he said. "It happens through constant work and effort over a long period of time. It hasn't been easy. It has come through discipline, aches and pains,

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Out of Africa blows a wind of change that prompts a *Times* writer to call for a new format for football's top tournament

For fourteenth World Cup read Third World Cup

THE world is in a constant state of change and sport, even when quite irrevocably committed to stasis, cannot help but reflect this. It is time for a change in the format of the World Cup to reflect change: important change in sporting and other realities.

Let us stick to mere sport here, and ask: from where have the biggest delights in this tournament come? From Africa. Africa gave the fourteenth World Cup its best start ever when Cameroon beat the world champions, Argentina.

Africa has also provided the team that puts the fear of God into Bobby Robson and the England



SIMON BARNES
ITALIA '90

boys. Egypt, with pace and skill, were well worth their 1-1 draw with the Netherlands, and it would have been no travesty had they won.

Egypt play the Irish tomorrow and England are likely to be in a position of needing points against them later in the week to qualify for the next stage. It looks a stunningly tough assignment, and

I do not fancy England's chances. For sure, this will be no walkover.

Africa has two teams in the finals that is all FIFA permitted. Europe has 14. As a simple paradigm of the traditional balance between Europe and the Third World, this could hardly be bettered.

But times change. In football, at least, they already have. Which teams have been dull, ineffective, and generally a waste of space? Thus far, one could mention England, Ireland, Scotland, Spain and the Soviet Union without any fear of contradiction.

One can criticise England's

performance against Ireland on aesthetic grounds and certainly it was woefully uncultured stuff. But football is full of contrasts in approach: the real indictment is that England were not even inventive.

And yet look at Cameroon. Why are they topping their group? Are we talking about wild natural skills, raw talents, untrammelled passions, the natural physical exuberance of the animal on the plain?

Certainly not. Cameroon owe their victories to their carefully learned skills and to their natural African brains. In both matches

they have been, barring the final five minutes of the match against Argentina, when both sides were wild with excitement, as disciplined in defence as they have been thoughtful and gloriously inventive in attack. Nor are Egypt applying Stone Age tactics and atavistic passion to their game: this is a football team of high quality.

Africa has two sides of startling ability here in Italy. How many more are there where these came from? Europe has given us 14 teams, and clearly they are not all worth a place when compared with the Africans. Africa should,

quite clearly, be granted a third place in the next World Cup Finals in four years' time.

It has been suggested that the wave of tactical invention has gone as far as it can. Tactically, all teams start equal. The difference between any two sides must now be one of skill.

Mastery of the ball is traditionally learned by the sons of the very poor: by lads who have nothing to do save play for hours with oranges, cans, bundles of rags sometimes even a ball. By these arguments, African football will continue to rise against that of Europe.

WORLD CUP NOTEBOOK

Cameroon carry flag for Africa

AS CAMEROON sweep to further glory, Franz Beckenbauer, the West German coach, has led support for demands from African countries for increased representation in the World Cup finals. Africa wants three finalists, rather than its present quota of two.

Beckenbauer said: "Their demand is justified. The Africans have caught up. When you consider those who are not here — Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, who provided surprises in past World Cups — it is fully justified that the so-called weak countries ask for another place."

The German coach did not say whether this should be at the expense of the South Americans or the Europeans.

The full story

THE United States' lack of interest in the World Cup has been almost gleefully seized upon, but this does not reflect the full story. *Newsweek* has paid the tournament serious attention, giving it one cover and planning a second after sending its South Africa bureau chief to Italy. The *Los Angeles Times* has seven people covering the tournament, including Henry Kissinger.

Ladies days

TIME off for good behaviour takes on a new meaning after players from Cameroon and Italy have been given permission to see their wives and girlfriends. Valery Gennimashvili, the Cameroon coach, said: "Footballers are also people, and if a man is in discomfort for a long time, it can affect his work."

The Swedish team may not have earned this "right", but their partners have flown in on a week-long trip to help combat the loneliness of the long-distance World Cup player.

Soviets see red

A FAMOUS cry from the terraces is "Get your glasses on red". The Soviet Union seem to agree, after their tangle with Maradona on Wednesday, and the award of a penalty for handball that was outside the area against Romania in their first match.

"In Moscow, we have a very well known eye instance, directed by Dr Sviatoslav Fedorov. Alexander Tikhonov, the vice-president of the Soviet football federation, said: "And I offer an open invitation to all the referees who may have doubts about their vision to visit the centre free of charge."

Nikita Symonov, the head of the Soviet delegation, said: "This was supposed to be the World Cup of fair play."

Roaring trade

CAMILLE Moute, a Cameroon supporter, is finding that everyone loves a winner. He is selling shirts and shorts in the "Lions" colours at the team's headquarters outside Bari. "Trade is going great because Cameroon keep winning," he said.

Despite running out of the bright yellow, red and green cotton shorts, and selling more than 100 shirts decorated with the team's name, he has not wanted to do it in Cagliari at the World Cup. You don't have to get a profit from everything in life."

Hall of shame

THE record of penalties missed, set four years ago in Mexico, has been equalled inside the first week. Gianluca Vialli's miss for Italy on Thursday took the total to four. The others on the roll of shame are: Michel Bilek, of Czechoslovakia, Ruben Sosa, of Uruguay, and Faruk Hadzibegic, of Yugoslavia. Bilek made amends for his feeble chip against United States, when spot-on yesterday against Austria. The tally still reads: three hits, four misses.

WALTER GAMMIE

Bergomi Italy's master builder



GRAHAM TAYLOR

ON THE WORLD CUP

THE beauty of any successful football team — be it at World Cup level or in the Sunday leagues — is how the individual players complement one another. Such a team allows everybody to play to his strengths and, indeed, en courages it.

When a team functions in this way, the more creative players undoubtedly catch the eye and receive most praise. Yet to be complete every team needs a base: players who are good at their jobs, and happy to do them, in order to provide a platform for other players to go and win the game for them. If the game is not to be won, then it is usually down to the team's "players' player" to make sure it is not lost — and for his efforts he receives little recognition.

Looking at the Italian team against the United States, there were two players who did exactly this. While the expected five or six goals did not materialise at one end of the pitch, Giuseppe Bergomi and Riccardo Ferri ensured there was not an Italian national disgrace at the other end.

We all appreciate the play and movement of Gianni, Donadoni, Viali, Baresi and company, but Bergomi and Ferri give their colleagues the base to work from. Occasionally they will venture forward from their defensive marking positions to join in an attacking movement, but in the main they will leave that to Baresi, who just happens to be better at it than they are.

Bergomi, the captain, is the only player who was in the squad for Italy's 1982 World Cup success in Spain, and yet he is still only 26 years old. He should be around for many years more and could get close to, or even exceed, Dino Zoff's record of 112 international caps for Italy.

Ferri, who is the same age as his partner, has a bit of a cynical streak in him. We saw that at first hand in an elbowing incident in the match against the US, and he was most fortunate to receive the yellow card and not the red.

The balance of the Italian team is very good but whether it will be able to withstand the power of the West Germans is, depending on the draw, something that may be answered in the final itself in three weeks' time.

Even allowing for the narrow 1-0 victory against the US, we have seen some lovely football from Italy. Let no one underestimate the importance of Bergomi and Ferri to them. As yet, they have simply got on and done their jobs at the back, allowing their more creative colleagues to do their stuff.

When the bigger tests come, as they surely will, it may just be that the two of them hold the key to Italy's ambition.

Divided loyalties

BARI (Afp) — The Soviet coach of Cameroon, Valery Gennimashvili, knows that on Monday his players will almost certainly knock his compatriots out of the World Cup.

"My heart is with them but my head is with Cameroon," he said.

WORLD CUP FIXTURES

TODAY
Group C
Brazil v Costa Rica (Turin, 4.00)
Sweden v Scotland (Genoa, 8.00)

Group F
England v Netherlands (Cagliari, 8.00)

TOMORROW
Group F
Republic of Ireland v Egypt (Palermo, 4.00)

Group E
Belgium v Uruguay (Verona, 8.00)
South Korea v Spain (Udine, 8.00)

TWENTY-FIVE
Italy v Czechoslovakia (Rome, 8.00)
Austria v United States (Florence, 8.00)
Nigeria v Argentina, highlights of Republic of Ireland v Egypt, Korea v Spain and Belgium v Uruguay; highlights of Republic of Ireland v Egypt, Korea v Spain and Belgium v Uruguay.

TELEVISION
Today
EUROSPORT: 10am-2pm: Coverage of Ireland v Palmer.

BBC1: 10.15-10.35pm: Highlights of Austria v Czechoslovakia; West Germany v United Arab Emirates; Coverage of Brazil v Costa Rica; Coverage of Sweden v Scotland; and Northern Ireland v Argentina. Brazil v Costa Rica and Sweden v Scotland.

ITV: 10.15-10.45pm: Highlights of England v Netherlands; Highlights of Scotland v Sweden and Brazil v Costa Rica.

BBC2: 7.30-10.45pm: Coverage of Netherlands v England and Scotland v Sweden.

TOMORROW

Group F

Republic of Ireland v Egypt (Palermo, 4.00)

Group E

Belgium v Uruguay (Verona, 8.00)

South Korea v Spain (Udine, 8.00)

ITV: 3.30-6pm: Coverage of Ireland v Palmer.

BBC1: 10.15-10.35pm: Highlights of Republic of Ireland v Egypt, Belgium v Uruguay and South Korea v Spain.

Roxburgh struggles to make the most of his thin resources

From RODDY FORTYTH

GENOA

THE profound sense of anticlimax which has attended this latest Scottish World Cup expedition since Monday's draw by Costa Rica will, at least, be relieved this evening when the Scots again have the chance to affect their own destiny in the tournament as they meet Sweden in the Luigi Ferraris stadium in Genoa.

It would be pleasant to suppose that Scotland might join the ranks of the unfancied teams who are proving capable of creating upsets against more potently-rated opposition, but the truth is that the resources available to Andy Roxburgh, which were slim enough in the beginning, have been cruelly diminished in the space of a week.

The departure of the injured Richard Gough to Glasgow on Tuesday deprived the Scotland coach of one of his most versatile talents, and Gary Gillespie's participation against Sweden is also in doubt.

"I have ruled out players because of that," he said. "We're talking about one or two of them, but not any more than that. We're not, for example, going to make 11 changes, but we definitely have to have a group on the park who are sprightly and lively."

It scarcely takes a surfeit of imagination to believe that Jim Bett will be one of the players who will be rested. Bett, so consistently impressive for Aberdeen this season, looked jaded in Scotland's final warm-up match with Malta and his performance against Costa Rica was well below adequate.

Murdo McLeod, of

Borussia Dortmund, is likely to be consigned for his ball-winning powers, and the Leicester City midfield player, Gary McAllister, is wanted for his ability to orchestrate corner kicks and free kicks, most of which were squandered by the Scots against Costa Rica.

ITV: 4-4.30pm: 22 T Russell (Fk); Gothenburg; 4 P Larson (Aero), 3 B Hayes (Liverpool); 6 G McAllister (Sheffield United); 7 M McAllister (Newcastle United); 10 B McCall (Everton); 10 M McLean (Borussia Dortmund); 7 B McLean (Parma); 21 P McLean (Norwich City).

SCOTLAND (probable): 4-4-2: 1 I Leitch (Manchester United); 17 S McNamee (Aberdeen); 2 A McLean (Aberdeen); 19 D McNamee (Heart of Midlothian); 6 M McNamee (Dundee United); 16 S McCall (Newcastle United); 18 S McCall (Everton); 10 M McLean (Borussia Dortmund); 7 B McLean (Parma); 21 P McLean (Norwich City).

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Iron Mike should mark his return to the boxing ring with an avenger's win over the amateur distance at Caesars Palace

Happy Tyson spells misery

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
LAS VEGAS

THE pain of life's experiences have eased for Mike Tyson and he is ready to start on the road back to his title that he lost to James "Buster" Douglas in February.

By the age of 23, Tyson had suffered the pain of death — of Cus D'Amato, his mentor and guardian, Jim Jacobs, his manager, and Denise, his sister — divorce, and defeat, but a baby boy, D'Amato Kilrain, born to his girlfriend, Natalie Fears, signalled the rebirth of Tyson himself. "I was giving up the best years of my life being miserable. From now on I'm not going to be miserable," Tyson said, with a fatherly responsibility, which really means misery for somebody else.

"You can be the best fighter in the world but until you have the title it doesn't mean anything. Having that gold belt is great, it gives you a sense of power. Douglas had a great night. I had a bad night. I had 37 good nights I'm starting over. I'm going to show the world how good I am."

Looking at Tyson in the final days of his preparation for tonight's bout with Henry Tillman at Caesars Palace, you could see that he had regained the zest for boxing under his new trainer,

Richie Giachetti. He watched Giachetti's movements and dutifully repeated them, only 100 times faster. "He looks different," said Angelo Dundee, whose charge, Adison Rodrigues, faces George Foreman. Giachetti added: "He's trained solidly for eight weeks, his muscle definition has been rearranged, he is extremely sharp."

In Tillman, the former world champion has a foe who has beaten him twice as an amateur in the Olympic trials in 1984 but in those days Tillman was 23, Tyson just 17.

Tillman won the Olympic gold medal; Tyson won the world title three years later. Tillman struggled to make his way in the professional world, suffering defeats as a cruiserweight twice (the second time being knocked out by Evander Holyfield) and twice as a heavyweight, being knocked out by an unranked boxer, Dwain Bonds. Tyson went on to defend his title successfully nine times.

Graham to meet Eubank

HEROL Graham has been ordered to defend his British middleweight title against the unbeaten Chris Eubank by the end of October. A meeting with Graham would be a big step up in class for Eubank, who is the World Boxing Council international champion.

ATHLETICS

Lewis suffers slow start in semi-final

NORWALK, California (AP) — Cari Lewis, the Olympic 100 metres gold medal-winner, continued his return to full-time athletics when he won his heat and finished second in his semi-final of the Mobil championships 100 metres here on Thursday.

Lewis, who had reduced his training time this year while completing a recently-published book, won his heat in a wind-assisted 10.06sec, and recovered from a slow start in his semi-final to finish second to Mike Marsh, also of the United States, both recording the same time, 10.03sec.

Lewis had not run seriously since competing in Delhi in September, and he suffered cramps in his calves during warm-ups for each race, and again when he reached the halfway point in his semi-final. He was none the less encouraged by his performance.

"I felt better than I did 24 hours ago, because I didn't

Jackson aims to lower his Portsmouth time

COLIN Jackson, the Commonwealth Games 110 metres hurdles gold medal winner, has confirmed he will run for Britain in the McVitie's Challenge against the United States and Kenya at Alexander Park in Portsmouth on Friday.

The Cardiff athlete has already run 13.10sec this season at the UK championships in his home town two weeks ago, so he ought to improve on the 13.36sec he clocked in Portsmouth last year — the fastest seen in the town.

Jackson, who re-emphasised his form by running 100 metres in a personal best 10.4sec last

POWERBOATING

Weekend launch of longest boat

By BRYAN STILES

THE longest Class One boat in the history of powerboating will be launched this weekend when Roger Fletcher takes his place on the start line at Swansea with his newly acquired craft, Debenham. The monohull measures 53 feet and is designed to plough through the roughest of seas at 90mph.

The boat, designed by Don Sheat and built in Southampton, is powered by three Sabre diesels, which produce 1,890hp, 200 more than Fletcher's previous craft.

The contest between him, John Clark in the catamaran Claret International, and Richard Lawton, the 1989 world Class One series champion, the Standard monohull, is due to be the highlight of the first round of the Prince's Youth Business Trust (PYBT) grand prix series.

Fletcher, the 1988 world Class

Two champion from Bursledon, will have Mike Studding as his navigator. Standing, like all the competitors, will be keeping a close eye on the weather, as the high winds and seas that can spring up suddenly in Swansea Bay can have a marked impact on the outcome of the race. Heavy seas will suit Fletcher's monohull, whereas the lighter catamarans will revel in flat, calm conditions.

The organiser of the event, the United Kingdom Offshore Boating Association, has secured coverage by ITV of the five-round PYBT series. All five races will be screened several days after racing, which should encourage sponsors for a high-cost sport that would welcome an injection of money.

• The art of steep-chasing has received a boost in Britain with the award of £500 to Aberdeen Amateur Athletics Club for a project to promote the skill of hurling over a 3,000 metre course.

Norfolk County AAA and WAAA receive £320 towards facilities at the all-weather track in Norwich.

"I felt better than I did 24 hours ago, because I didn't

have the same pain in my legs as I did in September. I'm not the less encouraged by my performance.

"I'm not the less encouraged by

Getting lost and finding laughter

Take your time touring in County Cork.
Michael Watkins finds contentment in wandering through the implacable rain, mesmerised by the sound of Irish voices

An hour after landing in Cork I was lost, on a bridge between Belgoole and Ballinspittle. I blamed it on the Little People, renowned for their playful disposition towards road signs, tiny figures, not dissimilar to dogs, darted from hedgerows to stay at my wheels. It rained.

Somewhere beyond the broad, hulking bulk of Timoleague Abbey, I received a welcome from the Courtmacsherry Hotel, where I was the only guest. Dinner was roast duck with potatoes prepared by four different methods, three strains of green vegetable and a scene the size of the Blarney Stone. Upon the snowy summit of my ice-cream was an artistically planted Japanese umbrella. The view over Courtmacsherry Bay was wild and wonderful, choppy water the colour of pewter.

Next morning I headed for Baile Mhic Eire and Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh in the Derrynasaggart Mountains, for no better reason than that I enjoyed the way they looked in print. It struck me that they would be stranded in mist and mystery in a way which Basingstoke would not. I passed an ambush site from days of the "troubles"; but mostly it was I who was overtaken, usually on blind corners, by drivers confident in the doctrine of resurrection.

By Cúl Aodha, still part of the Irish-speaking district, skies were smeared by implacable rain. This landscape is suited to rain, it goes with the melancholy. My guidebook referred to the "highest pub in Ireland", but it was not where it should have been. So I rolled up the car window, biting into a sandwich built by stonemasons. In doing so, I saw the first human in miles, a shepherd who, plodding alongside, grinned daintily, sheep-

ishly. I said something, he said something, but neither understood the other. There was too much between us: creed, race, dialect and a bitter history known to all Irishmen.

Where should I go now? Turning my back on mountains, I free-wheeled towards the sea, putting up in Glandore at the Marine Hotel. A cheerful place, it has belonged to the O'Brien family since 1910; before the "troubles", as Sean and Teresa O'Brien say, it is amazing how often you hear this euphemism for atrocities, as if it described some minor gastric upset. I wondered where, beneath this charm, this lyricism, this artful wizardry with words, they really felt about my Englishness. I wondered for two contented days, staring across the bay from my room, picking at fresh sole, listening to pounding music in the bar, to the incessant buzz of melodic conversation.

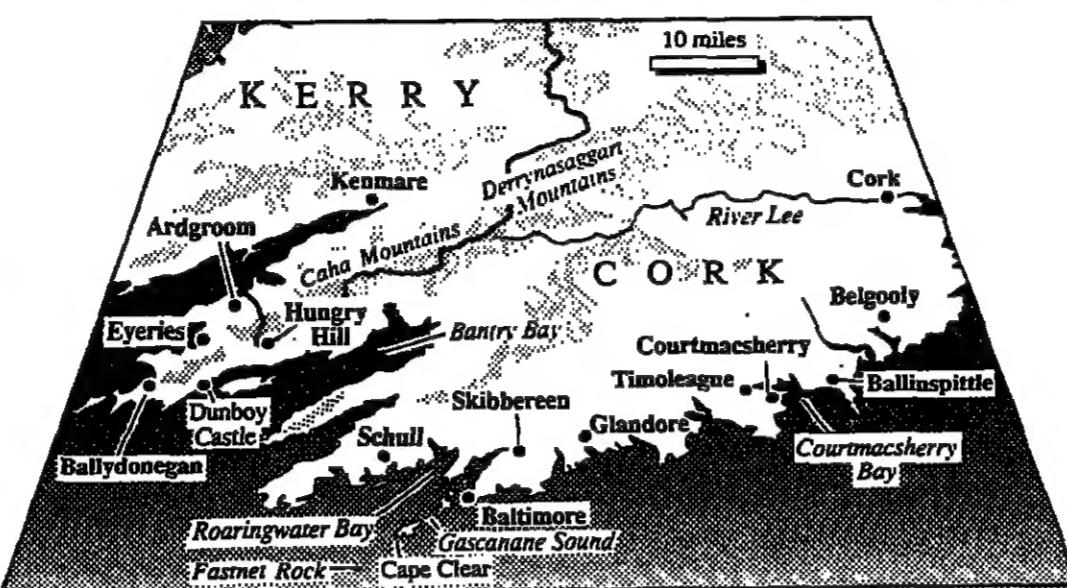
Glandore in the Bronze Age echoed to different melodies when, at what is known as the Drombeg Stone Circle, fertility rites were performed over the bones of a young man or woman. Different again would have been the tumult one imagines by reading Sir Richard Cox who, in his *Hibernia Anglia*, states that when the Munster rebellion broke out here, "the Irish gagged several English to death, then seized a Scottish minister, broiled a piece of his flesh and forced him to eat it...."

Not much happens hereabouts; and when it does, it happens in its own sweet time.

One breakfasts late and slowly. The *Irish Times* arrives, or not. Fishing boats thump past Glandore harbour on their way to Union Hall, skirting the islands of Adam and Eve. "Avoid Adam,



Towards Cape Clear: "Its fishermen were giants; Cuanairt O'Caravaun breakfasted on 2lb of butter, 16 herrings and a large crock of jam"



hug Eve," old sailing directions insisted.

I took the road to Skibbereen, pushing on to Castletownshend, once described as a "hothod of gentry". Climbing 42 steps to the Protestant church of St Barrahane, I smelled Brasso and self-esteem. In the north transept an entire wall was devoted not to the Ten Commandments, but to the inordinately detailed history of the

Townshend family. Another plaque: "Edith Denome Somerville, Hon LitD, 1858-1949. Author, Artist, Musician, Master of Foxhounds." A versatile woman, like Cuanairt O'Caravaun, who for breakfast ate 2lb of butter, six oranges, 16 herrings and a large crock of jam. There was holy water there, water so pure it keeps fresh for ever and a day, refusing to boil

at the inns of Cape Clear.

It is the sound of Irish voices

that I enjoyed again. "Big," said the landlord. "Terrible big."

I was disappointed, for Cape Clear is the birthplace of St Kieran. Its fishermen were giants, like Cuanairt O'Caravaun, who for breakfast ate 2lb of butter, six oranges, 16 herrings and a large crock of jam. There was holy water there, water so pure it keeps fresh for ever and a day, refusing to boil

at the inns of Cape Clear and Fastnet beyond.

The islanders were reputed to have thin hatchet faces, like early saints. But I flunked all this. Instead, I climbed the headland, lay on my stomach above a dizzy deep drop and looked out to Cape Clear and Fastnet beyond.

Missing the mailboat was typical of my shipshod travel arrangements. System does not come into it. Looking at a map, I am dazzled by names, though quite uncaring about how to get there. What kind of place could Smeen be, but dear? Magically Smeen's Reeks, on the other hand, is too evocative to be more than an hallucination.

Thus, on that almost-final day, did I respond to Hungry Hill on the Ring of Beara, drawn perhaps by vaguely remembered stories of Henry Purley's feud with Murty O'Sullivan and the copper mines of Allihies. When the going was good, boys earned sixpence a day, men were paid a shilling, and

at the end of each month their tools were weighed, the value of metal worn away being deducted from their earnings.

From Bantry Bay, past Dunboy Ruins to Ballydowane, Eryes, Ardgoon, all the way to Kenmare, you can scarcely breathe for beauty; not a fawning prettiness, it is more demanding than that, rebellious too. Where, until the copper gave out, shallow wealth enclosed Allihies, there are now numbing whiffs of poverty. Where once the Caha Mountains were bare, are scattered pale-faced bungalows, half lived in and half loved, in the way that "second homes" are.

The Ring of Beara deserved better. Nowhere am I reminded more powerfully of those elements supposed by the ancients to be the foundation of everything: fire, air, earth and water. To which, you could add one more ingredient: the missing link of Irish laughter.

TRAVEL NOTES

Michael Watkins's trip was arranged by Intravel, The Old Station, Heimsley, York YO6 5BZ (0439-71111). Two nights at each hotel — Courtmacsherry, The Marine at Glandore, Ard na Greine Inn at Schull — with dinner and breakfast, plus flights from Heathrow to Cork with Aer Lingus, and Hertz car hire, cost approximately £430 per person.

Continued on page 56

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

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TRAVEL

DAVE GOWAN

Cornwall's forgotten corner

Some time between Suez and the Beatles, the splendours and subdued charms of the Rame Peninsula slipped people's minds. Well, there was a lot going on, mainly to do with rising aspirations, while trips on old ferry boats – the easiest means of access – struck a dull note in a shiny new age of proud owner-drivers.

Today, the gentle old-fashioned countryside and clear pebbly bays that are the prelude to Rame Head's towering presence make up one of the least-known parts of Cornwall: a forgotten corner, although its eastern arm borders Plymouth Sound. Strollers on the Hoe admire the view, promise themselves a visit and, in the end, tend not to make it.

Once, things were different. At weekends armadas of pleasure boats shuttled families and tourists out from the city's Barbican to the twin fishing villages of Kingsand and Cawsand, tucked away beyond Fort Picklecombe, covering the shores in bodies of intensifying pink.

Passengers waving from the decks of an anchored Cunard Queen or the French Lines De Grasse pointed up post-war austerity and plain tomato sandwiches: a touch of pride in a big-guns cruiser moving majestically seawards from docks on the River Tamar maybe eased the contrast.

The entire peninsula was a Navy port's playground in which tin trays from cates went awash with tea, and pubs – one coyly admitting to being where Admiral Nelson and Lady Hamilton spent romantic interludes – were half-seas under in thirsty shipwrights.

Now most motorists cross the Tamar Bridge, way up-river, and drive on deep into Cornwall, rather than skirt creeks and mudflats over which Tamar and tributaries spread themselves below Torpoint and its chain ferry.

But a regular service runs by a wooden boat with a jaunty funnel crosses from Durford Street, Plymouth, to Cremyll on the Cornish side in just 10 minutes. Up the steep slope of Mount Edgcumbe, Maker Church overlooks the riverscape, dockyards and the city extending towards Dartmoor.

Train your binoculars on a departing frigate, and a buzzard glides into focus on great mothlike wings. The song of skylarks here carries more volume than hooters sounding across the water.

In the foreground, the ferry

John Hill enjoys the Rame Peninsula, once a playground for Plymouth pleasure boats

ploughs back past the frontage of the Royal William Victualling Yard. The grace of its buildings belies the purposes of slaughterhouse (first step towards salt pork and bully beef) and vast bakery for the 19th-century Fleet's hard tack biscuits.

Marker Church is all Cornishness and connections with the local Mount Edgcumbe family who, in the 1820s, laid out the wooded deer park with deep dells and grottoes covering much of this first promontory on the route to Rame, and whose young friend, Joshua Reynolds, sat in a pew the age of 12 and made a portrait of the vicar.

A commander who died "with the shouts of victory in his mouth" taking one of Bonaparte's warships has an inscribed memorial: old Boney himself eventually came into the Sound, a prisoner aboard the Bellerophon.

Outside the church is a signposted, mostly downhill, footpath to Kingsand which runs past a huge fort, merging ever deeper into undergrowth; one of the "folies" built to repulse invasion that never came. This is now walking country, served by buses which unfortunately only seem to occur with the frequency of glaciations.

Low buildings on the shore are fish cellars built by Elizabethan business to cure catches of the once-abundant pilchard, and the thickets all around make first-landfall refuges for migratory birds.

Kingsand and Cawsand, where residents smuggled on until the 1850s, have crooked streets of jumbled whitewashed cottages, and some tall Georgian houses, without the besetting crowds and overpowering twee-ery of more famous spots down in the coast.

On the narrow cliff road that links the villages in their suntrap (made warmer by much red sandstone) the crack of a training yacht's

sails comes in like gunfire.

The boundary between Devon and Cornwall once divided them; a line dictated by Saxons bent on control of both banks of the Tamar, which put Kingsand on the "English" side and fostered a rivalry that lasted centuries. (Midshipman John Pollard will have scored high points for Cawsand. He was credited with avenging Nelson's death at Trafalgar by toppling the marksman who fired the fatal shot.)

Here be real pasties: filled to their roots with meat, potato, onion and maybe swede, the whole thing well peppered. They are not the airy pastry casings with a smear of something on their floors often passed off in less advanced regions.

Penlee Point, to the west of the villages, marks the approach to Rame Head, a colossal, conical, ram's head rising dramatically. It is crowned by St Michael's Chapel and thrust out from the mainland on a narrow isthmus.

Seabirds, sometimes including fulmars, those superb aerialists, wheel dizzyingly around the cliffs while cormorants dive into the waves that lurch against rocks at the base.

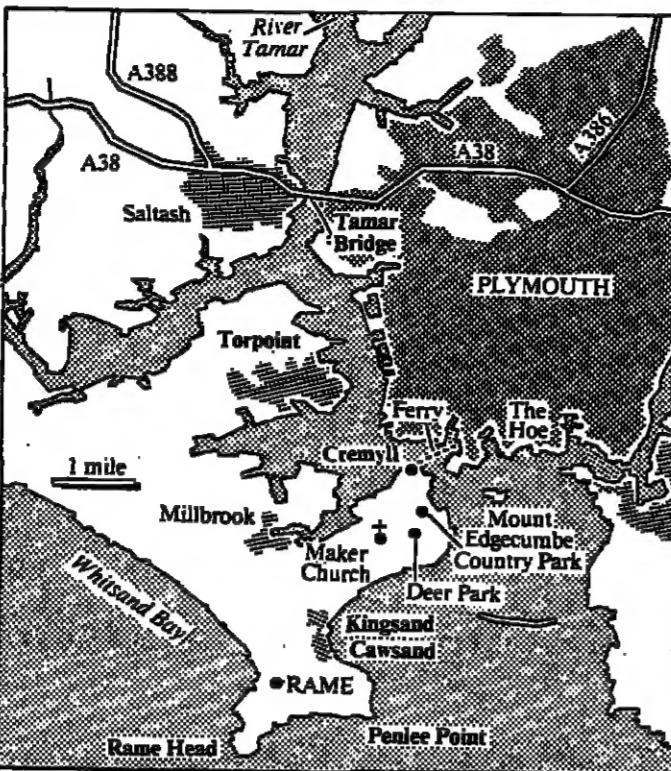
The tiny chapel, licensed for mass in the 14th century, served as a medieval lighthouse and probably saw more early coastguards than communicants. Views up-Channel and towards the Lizard are among the most magnificent on the southwest coast, particularly at sunset.

A ferry ticket of 40p takes you from Plymouth to Cremyll and Mount Edgcumbe Park, the gates of which are only a few yards from the waterfront (admission to the park is free).

That 40p was eight shillings in what a Cornishman might call the "real money" of Begemanesque days. They faded away when people went hurrying down dual carriageways to look for sandy Camelots with big car parks.

TRAVEL NOTES

For information on local bed and breakfast, farm and guesthouse accommodation, contact the Welcome to Cornwall Tourist Information Centre, Granada Service Station, Carkeel Roundabout, Saltash, PL12 6IF (0752 849 526).



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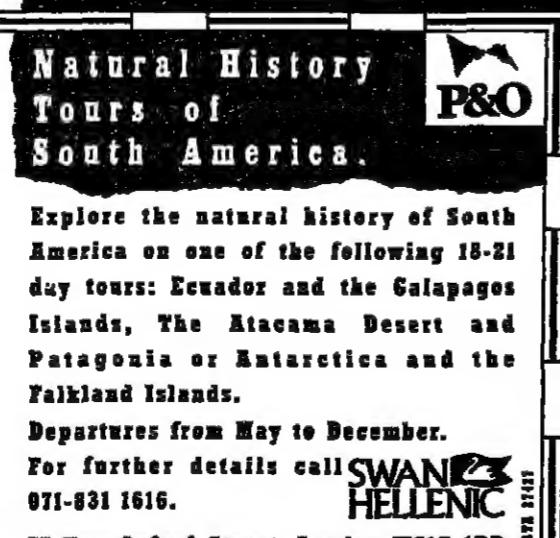
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BOOKINGS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

TRAVEL BOOKS

Common sense says that an old guidebook should be worthless: quaintness and charm are no substitutes for hard facts when you are on the road. But some travel books (Evelyn Waugh and H. V. Morton spring to mind) transcend the rule. Collins is evidently confident that *The Companion Guide to Venice*, by Hugh Honour (£13.95) and to *Burgundy*, by Robert Speaight (revised and expanded by Francis Pagan, £14.95) have stood the test of time. *Venice* first appeared 25 years ago, and *Burgundy* is 15 years old. Both read well today, perhaps because the emphasis is on history rather than current culture. Honour has a light, chatty style that makes for easy reading, while Speaight/Pagan take a more academic approach. To ensure that age does not weary them, these revised editions sensibly omit such details as museum opening times.

Talking Germany, by Jennifer Lee (Routledge, £5.95) is in sharp contrast to the old-style guides. No one would read it for pleasure. In her foreword, the author states: "You will find no authoritative (or boring) descriptions of cathedrals and architectural wonders... but lots of advice." This is a basic utility guide, with compact information on how to get around and handy phrases. There are suggested routes for leisurely travel and brief summaries of the cities for those on flying visits. Short on poetry, perhaps, but undeniably useful.

• Les Woodland's Get Away (Pelham, £13.99), is billed as "The essential guide for every cycle tourist". More likely to appeal to raw beginners who are screwing up the courage to take a holiday on two wheels than to experienced riders, it contains advice on the topics most likely to worry the inexperienced cyclist, such as how to persuade airlines to carry your bike, or which screws to adjust when the chain flies off the sprockets. There is also a section on buying a bike and brief guides to cycling in other European countries. It is all written with a gelling-up enthusiasm that gets a bit wearing, but there is lots of advice and useful addresses.

Jenny Tabakoff



News on the air

Two new radio stations begin broadcasting airport information for Gatwick and Heathrow on Monday June 25. Radio Travel News Heathrow (103.4FM), and its sister service on the same wavelength for Gatwick, can be picked up within ten miles of the airports. The 24-hour news service will include roundups of airport travel information, including the state of traffic on the approach roads, news of arrivals and departures, and of delays and parking.

Fly France

The new youth and student airpasses for the services of Air France and the French domestic airline Air Inter offer exceptionally good value. The passes are valid for four or seven not necessarily consecutive days of unlimited travel in any one month, and include the return fare from Britain to France. Prices start at £155 for a four-day pass, beginning with London Stansted to Paris flight. The principal restriction is that all flights must be *vol à basse*, which are

TRAVEL NEWS

flights which appear in blue print on the Air France and Air Inter timetables. The passes are available to anyone under 25, and to full-time students up to the age of 27. Ask for a *Le Fly* France leaflet: Air France (071-499 9511).

Lizard life

The Polurian Hotel on Cornwall's Lizard Peninsula opened again this week after six months of refurbishment following storm damage suffered in last January's gales. A new snooker room has been called Oscar's in memory of the hotel's bar manager, who was injured when a chimney crashed through the roof, and later died. Twelve new bedrooms have been added in the £500,000 rebuilding programme (0326 240421).

Walking tall

Allowing luggage to make its way from hotel to hotel while its unburdened owner walks from village to village is an increasingly popular way of ensuring that a healthy holiday does not turn into an endurance test. The Swiss Travel Service (0920 463971) offers a selection of walking holidays including a walking-without-luggage week near

Lake Lucerne from £239 for return flight to Zurich, airport transfers, half-board accommodation for the first night and the transfer of luggage each day to the next hotel. Resting places on the tour are at Brunnen, Engelberg, Wiler and Sörenberg. Expect to pay about £26 a night for additional bed and breakfast accommodation.

Ship of war

Sweden's most famous warship, the Vasa, which capsized in Stockholm harbour in 1628 is the centrepiece of a new museum opening in the city today. Preserved and restored, she will be on show daily from 9.30am to 7pm at the Vasa Museum, Galärvarvet, Djurgården, in Stockholm. Further information from the Swedish Tourist Board, 071-437 5818.

Moscow days

Day trips to Moscow next winter are planned by Airtrours (0706-260000). The company's winter programme, which starts on November 7, will also include one-day visits to Berlin for £159 (the same price as the Moscow trips). Vienna for £119 and Paris and Amsterdam both at £99.

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TRAVEL

Old Glory and ancient Spanish glories

The dollar might rule in Puerto Rico, but Tom Millar discovers it still adds up to four pesetas

Puerto Rico. Before you go, try it on some friends and you may note a certain unease. "Are you flying direct?" (actually, a bold bid for a clue), "South America?" (a generous stab), "Where is it?" (honest ignorance). To tell them it is an island in the Caribbean helps only a little, for they are many. A map tells it all: Puerto Rico is the easternmost of the four main islands which make up the Greater Antilles. From here, the islands are smaller and more numerous, like floats on a great net extending to the coast of Venezuela.

A more exciting preparation is to read *Christopher Columbus*, by John Stewart Collis. The author tells of a monk sent by Columbus to record the antiquities of the Indians, who discovered this oracle: "There will come men wearing clothes who will dominate us and kill us." The Tibes Indian Ceremonial Centre at Ponce tells of the savagery with which the Spaniards wiped out a gentle people and their rich culture. A native Indian king, about to be burnt at the stake, refused baptism lest he go to heaven "and meet only Christians". Other men came, many from the west coast of Africa. They wore shackles. Their presence added another pigment to the racial palette of Puerto Rico.

A fourth, richer and more powerful culture intruded in 1898 when Puerto Rico became a prize of the Spanish American War. Hence the school bus, Old Glory, the肯ucky Fried Chicken, the dollar, the military presence and the draft. But it is a subtle presence. Spanish is still the first language; the dollar is a peso and the quarter a peseta; the national flag flies beside the Stars and Stripes and independence is still one option.

A booklet on shopping, restaurants and entertainments picked up in a hotel lobby provided a half-page on Old San Juan, enough for a morning. "At the beginning of Cristo Street is the chapel with its beautiful silver altar," it said. A notice on the padlocked gate announced that the chapel was open only on Tuesdays.

"Across the street, the Museum of Puerto Rican Art offers work by old masters and modern artists," the booklet went on. A cleaner, busier on the frontage, told me the museum did not open until 11 o'clock.

"A short walk up Cristo Street and you arrive at the recently restored San Juan Cathedral," the booklet said. Off the left chancel was the white tomb of Ponce de Leon, first governor of Puerto Rico. At the base was a Latin inscription which I wanted to copy. The woman caretaker was scribbling on a pad. "Please, could I borrow your pencil for a moment?" "No, you could not borrow it."

I bought a booklet about the cathedral. "Now can I borrow your pencil?"

"Yes." The booklet advised a walk across the plaza to the El Convento Hotel. This was a Carmelite convent for 250 years and the monastic layout has been preserved. The tariff describes the sleeping quarters in clerical terms: abbot, monsignor, cardinal, in ascending order of status and price.

Next up Cristo Street to San Jose Church. Inside, the exposed stonework was the colour of oatmeal. Wall tiles marked the stations of the cross. Dark pews sat on polished flagstones. This was the family church of Ponce de Leon, whose statue dominates the plaza. His right hand is raised in either command or admonition. It seems to point



Rich legacy of a fallen empire: the great Spanish fortress of El Morro, which was built, together with San Cristobal, to protect the Atlantic coast of Puerto Rico from invasion



TRAVEL NOTES

• Tom Millar was a guest of Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Tourism Company. *Que Pasa*, the official guide, is available from their office, PO Box 15, Coulisdon, Surrey.

• British Airways (081-887 4000) has twice-weekly flights direct to San Juan from £515 return for a low-season Apex fare. An American visa is required.

• Paradores are attractive, government-sponsored country inns, ranging in price from £20 to £35 for a double room. Kuoni (0306 740888) offers a 15-day, fly-drive holiday based on three paradores and allowing three nights in San Juan at the start. Virgin (0233 775511) and Speedbird (081-741 0866) also provide holidays on the island.

• Kioskos are roadside stalls, selling inexpensive and tasty food. Roads are good; driving is on the right. Wear a seatbelt and keep to the 55 mph speed limit.

at Les Balcones, pub where the previous night I had listened to merengue music, watched the dancers or looked down on the crowd in the lighted plaza.

I looked back down Cristo Street, with its blue cobblestones, its houses in white, ochre and bleached pink. This pattern of plaza, narrow streets and balconied houses is repeated in Ponce, San German and many other lesser towns. Where restoration is complete, the impression is sometimes of a pastiche. Where jalousies and balconies are weathered, one would not be surprised to see Butch and Sundance appear in their long-johns, in the morning light.

As I turned into San Jose Street, the guide book ran out. Number 109, with its salmon-pink facade and dark green balcony, was open. I climbed the tile-fronted steps.

"Sir, can I help you?"

"Yes, can you tell me about this house?"

"It is called the House with the Two Alleys. At one time it was a warehouse and was known as los Prados (the Fields). It is now an office and sometimes when I am alone and working late, I think I can hear the girls. But if you are interested in Spanish houses, go back to 53 on Cristo Street."

There was a hand-written message on the gate: "The Porcelain Inn is closed on Wednesday." I returned to the plaza.

On the way to Cristo Street I noticed a red Glenda Line bus parked in the shaded square near the US Customs House. Where was he going? To Naranjito and Corozal on the mountains. How long? Five hours and the fare was \$2. On the outskirts of Bayamon, someone threw an over-ripe melon at the windscreen. This was the signal for yards of seamless Spanish. The bus stopped; the driver went in search of a policeman. They shook hands; the driver made his report and the journey was set in dense tropical forest.

resumed. He drove with his left hand on the wheel and his right on the gear stick.

Climbing the hills or ploughing into the valleys, this driving position never changed. Colourful, graceful houses perched on the hillsides, but the hill towns were disappointing, mere crowded shopping places.

On the return journey, a handsome woman with a pretty, silent daughter was eager to talk. A good place for lunch? The El Roncho restaurant; she would show me. She had lived in the Bronx, 20 years ago. It would be different now? Had I been to Boqueron? San German? By this time, a listening teenager in a white suit was ready with her speech: "Sir, if you want to stop, you must tell the driver. But maybe you do not want to stop?" (No, for a thunderstorm broke and it was like being caught in a car wash).

At the terminus, I offered \$2 for the return journey. He waved it away. His face, the colour of flake tobacco, creased in a smile. "Did you like it? I liked very much."

Touring is about meeting people who want you to go to where they have already been. When you get there, you angrily wonder what mood, company, event produced the spell that wholly eludes you. Boqueron, a favourite with *la señora*, was for me a shanty town with a splendid beach.

Here I was saved by the small print on the Parador Boqueron brochure. It read: "Bird Refuge of Boqueron (10 mins), the Lighthouse and Playuela Bay (20 mins), Salt Industry and Salinas (20 mins)." The water near the salt beds was purple in the evening light. Among the mangroves, I caught a glimpse of an egret doing a fine imitation of an angry old man.

The architecture of colonial Spain and nature's gift of mountain and sea give the island its charm. Sometimes the setting is dramatic, as at the Hacienda Buena Vista at Ponce, a restored plantation with mill and mansion house set in dense tropical forest.

Everything about this place speaks of loving care. Elsewhere, sea and shore combine to provide the setting, as at the Parador Villa Paguera. Soft rounded hills form the backdrop. Offshore there are mangrove islands, where pelicans roost, and houseboats are moored on the landward side. Patches of shallow water are a vivid, transparent green. In the phosphorescent bays, the

water itself has a magic; stirred by hand, it becomes liquid light.

In the Plaza de Colón stands the statue of Christopher Columbus, the tall, sad genius who never knew where he was. He discovered this island and devoutly named it San Juan Bautista. He did not discover Mexico and did not live to see the great fleets enter the Caribbean near Puerto Rico to

collect the silver and pearls. Cartagena and Puerto Bello.

To protect her empire, Spain

built the great forts of El Morro and San Cristobal on the Atlantic side of the island.

These and the plazas, haciendas and colourful houses are the rich legacy.

I had expected to hear some

wild, saucy chorus from *West Side Story*. But, "Always

the population growing", may not be good for tourism.

Instead, I heard a story:

A Puerto Rican sent his son to America to learn English.

After two months, the son called his father.

"Father," he says, "I'm in big trouble."

"What's going on?"

"Father, I am not learning English. I am forgetting the Spanish."

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Symbols of the 'new' religion: a statue at San Juan and the glistening, white cathedral at Ponce

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